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CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	281
Leading Articles:—	
The Foreign Trade of Japan and the Silver Question	282
The Harbour Master's Report	282
The Appointment of a Medical Officer of Health	282
Scarcity of Water and the Plague	283
Presentation of Colours to the Hongkong Regiment	283
Hongkong Legislative Council	284
Hongkong Sanitary Board	285
H.M.S. Severn	286
Alice Memorial Hospital	286
The Mutiny and Attempted Murder on the <i>Launberga</i>	286
Outbreak of the Plague at Macao	287
Disastrous Explosion at the Woosung Forts	287
The Peace Negotiations	287
The "Feima" Channel Blocked	287
Seizure of a British Steamer by the Japanese	287
Affairs in South Formosa	287
The Japanese at the Pescadores	287
Hongkong Rifle Association	287
The Government, the Shipping Firms, and the Strike	288
Presentation to Mr. Bruce Shepherd	290
The Harbour Master's Report for 1894	290
The Silver Question	292
The Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	294
Correspondence:—	
The Japanese occupation of Formosa, and British Trade	294
Hongkong News	295
Commercial	295
Shipping	296

BIRTH.

On the 12th instant, at 27 Caine Road, the wife of M. A. A. SOUZA, of a son. [841]

MARRIAGE.

On the 15th inst., at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, FRANK SMYTH, of Manchester, to EUPHEMIA BEATRICE MARY PLUMMER, younger daughter of J. T. Plummer, Esq., of Hongkong. [856]

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 14th March arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 11th April (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Sporadic cases of plague have occurred at Macao.

Vessels entering the ports of Tonkin from Hoihow are to be subjected to sanitary inspection in consequence of plague having appeared in Hainan.

The Easter meeting of the Hongkong Rifle Association was held on Friday, Saturday, and Monday. The weather was fine and the meeting was a great success.

The dies for the new British dollar were shipped to Bombay from London on the 5th inst., and there is therefore a likelihood that the new coins may be issued towards the end of next month.

According to a Tokyo telegram of the 7th inst. to the *N. C. Daily News*, Li Chin-fong (Lord Li) has been appointed Plenipotentiary, and has been formally acknowledged by the Japanese Government.

The Singapore Secretary of the Rand Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited, has received the following telegram from Raub, dated 4th April:—"Crushing finished, 2,500 tons stone realised 1,050 oz. smelted gold." This is about 8½ dwt. to the ton—an average crushing.

Mr. George Brown, British Consul at Kiang, has gone home on leave, and is succeeded by Mr. Brady, lately stationed at Ichang.

On Saturday the Hongkong Regiment was presented with its colours by H. E. the Governor on the Cricket Ground. The spectacle was a brilliant one and there was a large attendance.

The trial of Koyama Toyotaro for the attempted assassination of Li Hung-chang took place on the 30th ult. before Judge Tsuruoka, presiding, and Judges Shoda and Ando, Associates, and Public Prosecutor Kurobe. The Court sentenced Koyama to penal servitude for life.

The *Tamsui*, on arrival at Shanghai from Swatow, reported being stopped on the 5th instant, when nine miles S.W. of Turnabout, by two Japanese men-of-war, which were in search of a certain steamer. It is more than probable, the *N. C. Daily News* says, that the vessel in question has already reached Shanghai.

Terms of peace are reported to have been arranged between Japan and China. The amount of the indemnity is said to have been reduced from \$400,000,000 to \$300,000,000 and the territorial concession is to consist of the Liao-tung Peninsula, no mention being made of the island of Formosa in the last report. Russia, however, is said to object to Japan acquiring any territory on the mainland.

Since the beginning of crushing operations towards the end of 1890, with delays and difficulties by flood and disturbance, delays and difficulties caused by machinery lost or damaged in transit, Raub has succeeded in crushing eighteen thousand seven hundred and forty tons of stone, for a return of fourteen thousand five hundred and eighty-six ounces of smelted gold, worth nearly £58,000, or say roughly \$450,000.

By courtesy of Captain Nercock, of H.M.S. *Caroline*, which arrived at Shanghai on the 6th inst., the *Mercury* is informed that the *Caroline* visited Haichow on the 3rd inst., but there were no indications of the Japanese in that vicinity, where it was anticipated the Japanese would land preparatory to an advance on Nanking. Owing to persistent fog the *Caroline* had difficulty in approaching Haichow and was considerably delayed thereby.

A special telegram to the *N. C. Daily News* dated Tokyo, 8th April, says:—Reports that Japanese soldiers killed all the wounded at Tien-chuangtai having been published, General Kawahami wired to Marshal Nodzu, who indignantly contradicts the unfounded calumny. Apparently the reports are from prejudiced and inimical quarters. Letters from independent correspondents with the three divisions of the Japanese Army engaged support this denial.

It is now stated, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, that the *Ting-yuen* is less injured than was at first believed. A minute examination is said to show that she is not structurally damaged by the dynamite exploded when she was abandoned by the Chinese, and that by putting new engines into her and repairing the damage done to her hull, she can be added to the Japanese fleet. Several divers are to be sent from Yokosuka to Wei-hai-wei, with the object of raising her. Those who saw the vessel shortly after the surrender of Liukung were of opinion that the *Ting-yuen* was so greatly injured that it would be impossible to float her. There is to be an attempt also made to raise the *Ching-yuen*.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received by Messrs. Wieler & Co. that the steamer *Nord*, on a voyage from Nagasaki to Shanghai, has been lost, and that the captain and crew are safe. No further particulars have been received.

The Shanghai Volunteers were inspected on the 6th inst. by Major Faithfull, of the Hongkong Regiment, who complimented the corps and said he would have much pleasure in making a favourable report to the Municipal Council. Unfortunately as a spectacle the inspection was robbed of a good deal of interest by the rain, which began shortly before the hour appointed for the assembly, and continued in a pitiless downpour right through the parade.

The annual report of the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Limited, shows a net balance to the credit of profit and loss account of Tls. 13,679, inclusive of Tls. 456 carried forward from last account. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. was paid last November, which amounted to Tls. 2,700, and the directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend for 1894 of 5 per cent., or Tls. 4,500, which will leave a balance of Tls. 6,439 to carry forward to this year's accounts.

A Yokohama telegram of the 6th April to the *Mercury* states that General Sakuma of the second division has been appointed Viceroy of Liaotung. General Ngoi, of the first brigade, has been promoted to the command of the second division. General Ibaraki, head of the Civil Administration at Kinchow, has been appointed head of the Viceroy's Bureau of Administration. General Fukuoka, director of supplies for the second army, has been appointed Chief of the Viceroy's staff.

At the commencement of the peace negotiations, we learn from the *Japan Mail*, the Viceroy Li proposed that an armistice be declared as a step preliminary to negotiating terms of peace. Such a proposal had, of course, been anticipated. The Japanese Plenipotentiaries replied that they were not averse to an armistice, but that, before agreeing to it, they should require China to comply with certain conditions. Those conditions were, first, that Japanese troops be placed in occupation of Tientsin, Taku, and Shanhaikwan; secondly, that all the forts, barracks, and armaments at those places should be handed over; thirdly, that China should withdraw her troops from their positions there; fourthly, that Japan be given control of the railway from Shanhaikwan to Tientsin; and fifthly, that China should pay all expenses incurred by Japan in carrying out the above conditions. The Viceroy took exception to these terms as too stringent, but asked permission to consider them maturely, which request was of course complied with. An interval of two days consequently ensued, and when, on the 24th ultimo, the Plenipotentiaries met again the Viceroy urged that Japan should modify her demands. Receiving a firm refusal he declared, after some further expostulation, that under such circumstances he desired to withdraw his proposal for an armistice and to commence the peace negotiations at once. It was therefore decided that the conference should reopen for the latter purpose the following day. It was on his return from this conference that the attempt on the Viceroy's life was made, in atonement for which the Emperor granted the armistice at present in force. The convention does not affect any regions other than those of Chihli, Shinking, and Shantung.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN AND THE SILVER QUESTION.

In the annual report of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce an interesting review of the foreign trade of Japan is given. The value of exports and imports for all Japan during the years 1894 and 1893 was as follows:—

Total value of exports.	1894.	1893.	Increase of exports.
Yokohama	\$ 73,015,678	\$ 55,209,586	\$ 17,806,092
Kobe and Osaka...	30,202,431	26,181,866	4,020,565
Nagasaki, Hakodate, and other ports	10,027,927	8,321,413	1,706,514
	113,246,086	89,712,865	23,533,221
Total value of imports.	1894.	1893.	Increase of imports.
Yokohama	\$ 50,447,372	\$ 36,305,069	\$ 14,142,303
Kobe and Osaka ..	60,925,316	47,799,274	13,126,042
Nagasaki, Hakodate, and other ports	6,109,267	4,152,829	1,956,438
	117,481,955	88,257,172	29,224,783
Total exports and imports 1894	\$230,728,041		
Total exports and imports 1893	177,970,037		
Total increase of the trade in 1894 ..	52,758,004		

It may be thought, the report says, "that this great increase in the foreign trade was due chiefly to the unusual demand for vessels and munitions of war; out upon reference to the table it seems that less than \$12,000,000 of the total gain can be attributed to such purchases." This is an excellent showing and suggests visions of what might happen in China were that country to enter on a similar progressive policy to that of Japan. It is satisfactory, too, to note in these days, when the critical condition of British trade with the Far East is under discussion, that of the total increase of \$29,224,783 in the value of imports no less than \$14,260,246 is credited to Great Britain, the value of the imports from that country being \$42,189,874 in 1894 as against \$27,929,628 in 1893.

Bimetallists will, however, be able to draw some lugubrious conclusions from the report. If we look at the table showing the increase and decrease in "the principal articles of import" we find that of the fourteen descriptions of piece goods specially mentioned nine show a decrease in quantity and seven in value, only six showing an increase (and in most cases a very slight increase) in quantity and seven in value. Metals show an increase, but it is the demand for vessels that is chiefly responsible for the large increase in the total value of imports from Great Britain, and that is of course an exceptional windfall. Referring to yarns, after noting the difficulties to the trade caused by exchange and the war, the report goes on to say:—"At the same time from an examination of figures the falling off cannot be entirely attributed to the causes mentioned above, because it would appear to have been greatest in those yarns chiefly affected by the competition of the spinning industry in Japan. For instance, the deliveries of 16/24s. and 28/32s. together barely reached half of what they were in 1893; 38/42s. also showed a decrease, whereas 32s. and 42s. twofold, which are not yet produced in any quantity in Japan, just about held their own; the inference being that as time goes on 16/24s. and 28/32s. will disappear from the list of imports altogether, just as Bombay have already done." It would be a mistake, however, on the part of bimetallists, to ascribe the falling off wholly to the silver difficulty. Whatever the course of exchange might have been Japan would not long, after adopting West-

ern civilization, have allowed her coal deposits to remain unworked or refrained from establishing manufacturing industries. But as she progresses her trade will increase imports will have to be accepted in payment for exports, and it will remain for the British manufacturer to take his share in the increased trade by introducing new descriptions of goods as he finds himself cut out by native competition in the lines on which he has hitherto depended. The conditions of trade, like everything else in this world, are subject to change, and the British merchant and manufacturer may be trusted, we think, to adapt themselves to future changes as they have to past changes. Trade has gone on increasing while exchange has fallen from 5s. to 2s., and although a stable rate must be recognised as a desideratum the lack of it will not kill trade, though it no doubt hampers it. The suggested likelihood of a transfer of the shipbuilding trade of the Clyde and the Tees to the Far East, of which mention has been made at meetings of steamship companies, appears to us as chimerical as the soliloquy of Macaulay's New Zealander. At any rate we may comfort ourselves with the thought that, like the extinction of the sun and the general smash up of the universe, it will not happen in our day.

THE HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT.

The Harbour Master's report for last year touches on a number of interesting subjects. It is too long to reproduce in full, but the portion of it dealing more directly with the trade of the port will be found in another column. It is satisfactory to note that notwithstanding the plague and the war the total falling off in the tonnage arriving and leaving amounts to less than one per cent., which may be taken as an indication of the natural vigour of a trade which can sustain such blows with so little loss. But had it not been for the plague, and possibly in a secondary degree the war, the trade of the port would in all probability have shown a large increase, for the arrivals of steamers during the first quarter showed an increase on the corresponding quarter of 1893 of 94 in number and 114,149 in tonnage, which represents roughly about 14 per cent. The plague, however, brought business almost to a standstill for a time, so that instead of an increase of 14 per cent. on the year we had a loss of rather less than 1 per cent.; but the actual amount of cargo landed in and shipped from the colony was rather in excess of the previous years, which seems to indicate that the loss in tonnage was chiefly in connection with vessels that make use of Hongkong simply as a port of call.

Leaving the question of the trade of the port, Commander Rumsey makes some interesting remarks on the Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance. It appears that 110 permits to work on Sunday were issued during the year, twenty of which were not availed of, so that the number of vessels that worked on Sunday was ninety. The amount collected in fees during the year was \$13,375, nearly double what it was in 1893. "The intention of the Ordinance," says Commander Rumsey, "was, I believe, to put a stop, or nearly so, to Sunday work on board European vessels in the harbour, and the fee originally fixed was thought to be a prohibitive one. It is evident that it is not so, however, and if I am correct in my surmise as to the intention of the Ordinance I think the fee should be doubled." There is no question of surmise as to the object of the Ordinance, which is stated in the title to be "to restrict the loading and unloading of cargo on

"Sunday in the waters of the colony." It was not contemplated that any appreciable revenue should be derived from the Ordinance, the intention being that the fees imposed for working on Sunday should be, as the Harbour Master says, prohibitive. If experience shows that they have been fixed on too low a scale to serve the purpose intended it is desirable they should be raised, if the Ordinance is to be kept in force. Thirty of the permits issued last year were, however, issued free of charge in accordance with the Government's policy of showing favouritism to the mail lines, and while that policy is continued it would be unfair to increase the burden on other steamers.

Another interesting question dealt with by Commander Rumsey is that of the incidence of light dues. A larger revenue, he says, might be raised, and a more equitable tax levied, by the substitution of a periodical payment for the present system. The light dues fall more heavily on coasting steamers which enter the port at intervals of a few days than on the large trunk liners, which visit the port only at longer intervals, and Commander Rumsey suggests a quarterly or half-yearly tax. But a vessel entering the port at longer intervals presumably derives less benefit from the lights than vessels making more frequent use of the port, and it would seem that their payments should be in proportion. Before any alteration is made the Chamber of Commerce will no doubt be asked to state its views, when the equities of the case will be duly considered, but we should hardly think the Chamber will adopt Commander Rumsey's views. He says that one of the results of his proposal would be the collection of a larger revenue, and at the same time he tells us that the light dues are considerably in excess of what is required for the maintenance of the lighthouses for which the colony is responsible. The mercantile community strongly holds the principle that shipping should not be taxed at all, or certainly not in excess of what is required for the maintenance of the lights. If they agreed, therefore, to any alteration of the system under which the dues are collected it would only be on condition that the total amount of the tax should not be increased.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

The Hon. A. G. Wise cannot be congratulated on the first Bill he has introduced in the Legislative Council, which is entitled "An Ordinance to confer certain powers and authorities on the Medical Officer of Health." Probably the Bill is not the learned gentleman's own drafting, but as he has introduced it he must be taken to have assumed the responsibility for it; at all events, he should have pointed out to His Excellency the ridiculousness of the measure as it stands. From the remarks he made when introducing the Bill, however, Mr. Wise does not appear to have a very clear idea of the object to be effected. He said:—"It is proposed to appoint a Medical Officer of Health as a member of the Sanitary Board. He will have powers of entry, subject to the Colonial Secretary or the President of the Sanitary Board, and he will be, as far as I understand, independent of the Sanitary Board itself or its orders." Surely the Attorney-General ought to know whether the officer is to be subject to the Sanitary Board or not; it is not a matter on which there ought to be any question of understanding. So far as can be gathered from the Bill, however, the

Officer of Health will not be subject to the Sanitary Board. Indeed, it does not appear that he is to be subject to any one, or that he is to have any duties or responsibilities thrown upon him. He is endowed with certain powers, namely powers of entry, but there is no duty thrown upon him to exercise those powers. If his curiosity prompts him to go and inspect a house he is at liberty to do so, but if he does not want to go he need not. Assuming he makes an inspection, the matter ends there, so far as the Ordinance goes, and the Officer will be at liberty to spend the rest of the day in a long chair drinking whisky and soda. That will not be the conception of his duties that Surgeon-Major Westcott will entertain, but it is the conception suggested by the Ordinance.

The preamble recites that the Governor has been pleased to appoint a Medical Officer of Health in addition to the Health Officer of the Port. Section 1 gives His Excellency power to appoint the Medical Officer of Health a member of the Sanitary Board, with all the powers, privileges, and authorities of any other ordinary member of the said Board. Ordinary members of the said Board, it may be remarked, are at liberty to attend its meetings or absent themselves as they like, and some of them are very far from being as regular in their attendance as might be desired. Section 2 gives the Medical Officer of Health the right to enter and inspect any house between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary condition thereof and whether any infectious or contagious disease exists therein, provided that unless delay is likely to prove injurious or detrimental to the public health the occupants are entitled to demand two hours' notice of the inspection. Section 3 provides that under a special order signed by the Colonial Secretary or the President of the Sanitary Board the said officer may enter a house at any hour of the day or night. Section 4 imposes a penalty on any one obstructing the said Medical Officer of Health. That is the whole sum and substance of the Bill, and, as will be seen, it imposes no duties on the officer. It is not even made incumbent upon him to officially report in writing the results of his inspections to the Sanitary Board. Section 11 of the Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance gives the Sanitary Board power by its officers to enter and inspect, upon reasonable notice to the occupiers or owners, any building and curtilage for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary condition, cleanliness, and good order thereof and of the partitions, mezzanine floors, storeys and cock-lofts therein, or the condition of any drains therein or in connection therewith. The Sanitary Board and the Medical Officer of Health will therefore have concurrent jurisdiction in this matter and may work at cross purposes, as they are very likely to do if the Government tries to set them by the ears at the outset. The Medical Officer of Health ought to be an officer of the Board. That is the only sensible and the only workable arrangement. Some high officials hate the Sanitary Board like poison, because the existence of a body partly elective and with independent powers seems to them a menace to the principle that Government officials are the governing body instead of merely public servants; and some of the unofficial members of Council also, for reasons of which we have no knowledge, do not appear disposed to regard the Board with a very friendly eye. It is to be hoped, however, that in this matter the good of the colony will be placed before official jealousy or private pique, and that the Bill will undergo considerable amendment before it is finally passed.

SCARCITY OF WATER AND THE PLAGUE.

A Government notification has been issued to the effect that in the absence of rain it will become necessary in the course of a few days to limit the water supply to three hours per day, and in some districts less. This is a contingency that cannot fail to excite apprehension, for with a diminished water supply the chances of a recurrence of the plague are proportionately increased. It is now little short of a year since the plague burst upon us, and that there may be no repetition of the painful experience that followed must be the earnest hope of every one. The Government, we believe, has made provision for coping promptly and energetically with any future epidemic that may occur, even to the extent of having in readiness a large number of graves so that there may be no delay in disposing of the corpses of those who fall victims to the disease. But even more important than being prepared to cope with the enemy when it appears within our borders is the prevention of its entrance. The plague is a filthy disease, the preventive for it is cleanliness, and for cleanliness an adequate water supply is essential. By the next dry season there will be an increased storage capacity at Tytam, but the important question now is whether anything can be done to tide over the present danger. Two schemes were proposed to increase the Tytam supply, one, which has been adopted, the enlargement of the storage capacity, and the other, to dam the perennial stream below the level of the reservoir and pump the water up to the tunnel. Would it be impracticable to establish some makeshift pumping arrangement to tide the colony over the few weeks of scarcity with which we are threatened? That is a question for engineers to decide, but nothing that can be done ought to be left undone, for the danger of another outbreak of plague is imminent. The present is perhaps not a very suitable moment at which to enter on controversial questions as to the control of the water supply, but we cannot but remark that it seems an anomaly that the Sanitary Board, the body which is supposed to be responsible for the health of the colony, although it met on Thursday afternoon after the time at which the decision with regard to restricting the water supply must have been arrived at, should not have been informed of that decision or asked for its opinion as to what should be done in view of the threatened scarcity. There are few things having a more direct bearing on the public health than the water supply, and to leave the Sanitary Board in ignorance of any steps taken in regard to it is dangerous. The Board had under consideration on Thursday a matter with which the question of the water supply has a direct connection, namely, the condition of the public latrines. Dr. Lowson has placed on record in his excellent report, laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday, on last year's epidemic, his opinion that the public latrines were one of the principal causes of the spread of the disease. It is said that the by-laws in connection with those places are being enforced, but it would appear that they do not compel the use of disinfectants in the receptacles. That is the most important matter to be seen to, but scarcely second to it comes the observance of general cleanliness, and the absence of a sufficient water supply must necessarily increase the difficulty of keeping the places clean. It appears, also, from the proceedings at Thursday's meeting, that arrangements have been discovered in certain private houses which are virtually water closets

without the usual flushing apparatus. Presumably the occupants of the houses, for their own comfort, would carry water for flushing purposes, but when water is scarce this is more likely to be neglected. The houses that have been discovered with arrangements of the kind mentioned have, of course, been ordered to remove them, but as the house to house inspection of drains has not yet been completed it may be supposed there are other houses with like arrangements that have not yet been found out. Whether they exist in large numbers or not we are unable to say. If they do they increase the danger attendant on a scarcity of water; if they do not, so much the better. That, however, is only a detail. On general grounds it is in the highest degree desirable that at this season of the year, when the recurrence of plague is a danger that must be kept in view, there should be no limitation of the water service beyond what is absolutely unavoidable and that any steps that can be immediately taken to increase the supply ought to be adopted.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE HONGKONG REGIMENT.

A BRILLIANT CEREMONY.

On Saturday afternoon, amid the pleasantest of surroundings, and favoured by what was certainly "Queen's weather," and in the presence of one of the most brilliant companies that ever assembled in Hongkong, His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., presented the Hongkong Regiment with its colours. The Cricket Ground, where this interesting, important, and indeed, historical ceremony was performed, presented a truly remarkable aspect; there was an abundant wealth of beauty and colour whose effect was considerably heightened by the bright sun, and the whole scene was picturesque, impressive, and dignified. A long time before the proceedings commenced the Regiment, under Colonel Barrow, who might be justly called the hero of the afternoon, took up its position on the ground, three sides of a square being formed. The men wore their full uniform, and it can be well imagined what a bright picture they made. The varicoloured turbans, the scarlet coats with yellow facings, the white leggings, their glittering arms, and the green field upon which the men stood, all formed a happy combination of colours which was admired by everyone, and which no one could justifiably criticise adversely. Shortly before five o'clock the spectators began to flock to the ground, and a quarter of an hour later there was a big throng awaiting the arrival of the Governor and his suite. There were officers, English and foreign from the men-of-war lying in the harbour, and they all wore their full uniform; there were also numerous officers of the army and volunteers, and a huge gathering of civil officials and private residents. Presently the approach of the Governor was signalled, the order "Shoulder arms" was given, and His Excellency, in his official uniform, Lieutenant-General Digby Barker, Mrs. Barker, Admiral Fremantle, and suite came on to the ground. There was no further waiting. Four officers of the Regiment came forward, namely, Captain Retallic and Lieut. Woodcock and two native officers. The flags were thereupon uncovered and unfurled. The Right Rev. Bishop Burdon then stepped forward, and read a special prayer for the sanctification of the standards. This was repeated in Hindustani by the *moulvie*, and at the conclusion the soldiers in a loud, solemn voice replied "Amen, Amen, Amen." Mrs. Barker thereupon handed the standards to two native officers, and expressed the hope that they might be jealously guarded and loyally defended by the Regiment. Mrs. Barker's remarks were translated by Colonel Barrow, and then the Governor formerly pre-

sented the colours. His Excellency made a short, but stirring speech, which was delivered in an admirable manner, and which Colonel Barrow repeated to his men. Colonel Barrow made a graceful speech in reply, and the regiment having presented arms, the band struck up "God save the Queen," which was played three times, the colour party marching to its strains to the regiment. The colours were then trooped. Afterwards the whole regiment marched past headed by the band playing the regimental march. Who has not experienced that peculiar thrill which is induced when a fine regiment marches by accompanied by stirring martial music? No one who witnessed the final march past on Saturday could have escaped this curious sensation. All the companies marched past perfectly and were loudly applauded. All credit is due to these fine, swarthy fellows for the magnificent display they made, and to the officers of the Regiment for training what was formerly a "rabble of raw recruits," to use Colonel Barrow's expression, in such a praiseworthy manner.

The proceedings opened with the following prayer, which was read by the Right Rev. Bishop Burdon:—

Oh Lord God Almighty, the God of battles, in whose hands are all majesty, power, and might, mercifully grant that these ensigns of Thy servant our gracious Sovereign Lady the Queen may ever be borne with honour and glory in the service of our Sovereign. Grant that they may be ever defended with valour, fidelity, and devotion even unto death, and above all, God all merciful and Almighty, grant that they be ever unfurled in the cause of justice and freedom, and in accordance with Thy Divine will. We beseech thee, oh Lord God, to bless and sanctify these standards, and in Thy holy name we commend them to the protection of these the soldiers of Thy servant Victoria. Amen.

Mrs. Barker then stepped up to the standards and said—I hand these colours, through you, into the keeping of the Hongkong Regiment, in the full assurance that they will ever be jealously guarded and loyally defended by this the youngest but one of the finest of the Regiments of the Queen-Empress.

His Excellency, in presenting the colours, said—As the representative in the colony of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India, the duty devolves upon me of presenting to you the colours of your Regiment, which have been handed to you by the wife of your gallant General.

Her Majesty our Queen and Empress entrusts these colours with confidence to your care and protection.

Remember that the honour of this corps is bound up with the honour of every man in it. If any man disgraces himself, he disgraces his Regiment and his flag. By your discipline in time of peace, and by your valour in time of war, prove yourselves worthy to serve under the British flag.

The community of Hongkong is proud of you, and feels sure that you will hand down these colours untarnished to your successors.

They are a glorious inheritance. Cherish them! Guard them! Fight for them, and, like brave soldiers, if necessary (which God forbid), shed your blood in defence of them!

GOD SAVE OUR QUEEN.

Lieut-Colonel Barrow in reply, said—Your Excellency, on behalf of the officers and men of the Hongkong Regiment, I beg to thank you for your address. It is a propitious omen that the first colours of the Hongkong Regiment should be presented under the auspices of the Governor of this colony, and I trust Hongkong may ever have cause to be proud of the Regiment which bears its name. It is also a gratification to us that the colours have been actually handed to us by Mrs. Barker, for it has been under General Barker's command that the Corps has been organised, and has grown from a rabble of raw recruits into an efficient regiment of infantry fit, I verily believe, for any service which it may be called upon to perform. Should the occasion arise I trust it will prove by its conduct worthy of the confidence in it which you have been pleased to express, and that on the day of trial it may by its valour and devotion add another page of glory to the history of the British Army and give another bright example of duty nobly performed in the service of Queen and country.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday. Present:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. A. G. WISE, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE.

Mr. A. Seth, Clerk of Councils.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The Hon. A. G. WISE was sworn in as a member of the Council, and took his seat for the first time.

REPORTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table the Harbour Master's Report for 1894, a Medical Report on the epidemic of Bubonic Plague in 1894 by Dr. Lowson, and the Registrar General's Report for 1894.

APPOINTMENT OF A MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have to move the first reading of a Bill to confer certain powers and authorities on the Medical Officer of Health. This is a very short Bill. It is proposed to appoint a Medical Officer of Health as a member of the Sanitary Board. He will have powers of entry, subject to the Colonial Secretary or the President of the Sanitary Board, and he will be, as far as I understand, independent of the Sanitary Board itself or its orders. I beg to move the first reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a first time.

THE ARMS ORDINANCE PASSED.

Council resumed Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the carriage and possession of deadly weapons.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that the Council had now only three sections—5, 16, and 15—to consider. It was agreed at the last meeting that a reference to Volunteers should be inserted, and the Bill had been amended in such a manner as to exclude Volunteers from its provisions. There was a further amendment respecting the permits. The hon. member opposite (Hon. A. McConachie) had moved that the permits be obtained from the Superintendent of Imports and Exports. He (Acting Attorney-General) had seen several merchants of the colony and also the Superintendent of Imports and Exports, and after hearing their arguments, he was inclined to think that the Bill should stand as it was drafted. The only argument the merchants put forth was that the office of the Superintendent of Imports and Exports was nearer the water side than the office of the Captain Superintendent of Police, and it would save five or six minutes if the permits could be obtained from the former office. But the object of this Ordinance was to let the police know where arms were. On the last occasion it was pointed out by the Superintendent of Imports and Exports that a man might go to him and get an export permit, and before a duplicate could be sent to the Captain Superintendent of Police the arms might be disposed of in the colony. It was much better that permits should be obtained from the Captain Superintendent of Police, and five or six minutes' extra walk could not interfere with trade or commerce in any way.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE said he could not see why his amendment should be objected to. The permit was good for only a certain period—24 or 48 hours—and anyone in possession of arms after that period, unless entitled by a permit, could be arrested. It would be a very great inconvenience indeed if the purchasers had to go to the Captain Superintendent of Police for these permits. He understood that the trade was a very large one.

THE HARBOUR MASTER—\$3,000 a year?

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—\$250,000. It would mean a serious loss of time to go up to the Police Station every time a permit was required.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The purchasers saw no objection to going to the Harbour Master's office, and I cannot see why

they should object to going to the office of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—The dealers want as few difficulties as possible put in their way. A permit could be obtained just as well, and more speedily, at the Harbour Master's office. The licence could be limited to 48 hours, and after that period had expired the police could seize the arms from anyone in possession of them in the same manner as if he had no licence at all.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Even then a duplicate would have to be sent to the Captain Superintendent of Police, as he is the only man who can act.

The HARBOUR MASTER—The whole point is, what is the object of the Ordinance? If it were merely to cover arms when they are taken out of the dealers' store until they leave the colony I think it is quite possible that a permit from the Superintendent of Imports and Exports would be sufficient. But the object of the Ordinance is to let the police know what arms are likely to be in the colony, and whether they might, at times, be used to the detriment of the people in the colony. If the permits were obtained from the Superintendent of Imports and Exports the police would not be able to trace all the arms, as some of them might be sent to Queen's Road, and not out of the colony. But the police could not know anything about them, and we would then have a very large number of arms in the colony that the police knew nothing about, and the object of the Ordinance would therefore be frustrated.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—The police could know where the arms were if permits were obtained from the Superintendent of Imports and Exports.

The HARBOUR MASTER—No, they would not. If the police issued the permits themselves they would be able to take what steps they pleased to trace the arms. No sooner is a permit issued by the Captain Superintendent of Police than he can, if he choose, see whether the arms do go out of the colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—For the sake of a very few minutes' difference of time in going to the Harbour Master's office instead of to the Captain Superintendent of Police, I am surprised that any hon. member should hesitate to do all in his power to co-operate with the Government in passing a Bill which has for its object the maintenance of peace and good order in the colony. Peace and good order are of far more importance to the commercial interests than the prevention of a very slight inconvenience.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—On the whole I see no objection to the Ordinance as it stands. I understand that the whole object of this Bill is, as the Colonial Secretary said, to place the authorities in possession of the knowledge as to where arms are, in order to prevent in the event of a rising lawless people in the city getting hold of them. The chief inconvenience in this Bill is that very large quantities of heavy guns come here from time to time for transshipment, and of course, from their nature, they could not be got rid of by being smuggled away, and it is very undesirable that any inconvenience should be caused to those persons who are importing these arms for transshipment. On the whole I daresay the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce will be prepared to consent to application being made to the Captain Superintendent of Police instead of to the Superintendent of Imports and Exports. I see no great objection to that.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE thought the hon. member had missed the point of the discussion. The particular point under discussion was the sale of small arms in the colony, not the question of transshipment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The question at present under discussion is one of convenience and inconvenience, and the inconvenience is so infinitesimal that it is really surprising that we should be detained here to discuss it. (Hear, hear.)

The three clauses were passed with slight amendments.

Council resumed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE CONVERSION OF CURRENCY BILL.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The second item on the order of the day is the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 1864 entitled "An Ordinance to provide for conversion of British Currency in all payments by or to the Government." I do not propose to proceed with this Bill until we hear

what effect it will have on the rents of Crown lands that are now paid in sterling.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held after the Council meeting, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

The CHAIRMAN—There is only one financial minute to bring before the Committee to-day, and that is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$1,324 in respect of additions to the salaries of the undermentioned officers as from the 1st January, 1895, sanctioned by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee:—The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, \$600; the Steward of the Government Civil Hospital, \$120; Inspector Germain, Sanitary Department, \$120 (for knowledge of Chinese); the Head Bailiff, Supreme Court, \$204; the second Bailiff, Supreme Court, \$280. Hon. members will remember that the Retrenchment Committee made certain recommendations in the direction of retrenchment. They also made recommendations which could not be considered to tend in that direction. They considered, after their enquiries, that there were certain officers who were not drawing sufficient remuneration considering the arduous nature of their duties. The officers in this list were among those in the Civil Service recommended for an increase of pay.

Hon. HO KAI thought there was a mistake in reference to the vote recommended to Inspector Germain, who in consideration of his good work had been twice recommended by the Sanitary Board for an increase to \$240. Why was it only \$120?

The CHAIRMAN—The amounts mentioned here are in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. If Inspector Germain, who has been reported on most favourably, ought to receive a larger increase it is a matter which must come forward separately. I do not think we can alter the amount to-day, and I suggest, if attention is to be drawn to this amount, that it should be brought up at a future meeting of the Committee.

The vote was recommended.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The Sanitary Board met on Thursday afternoon. There were present Mr. F. H. May, Vice President, in the chair; Hon. Ho Kai, Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon; Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C.; Dr. Hartigan, Mr. R. K. Leigh, and Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary.

CATTLE, SHEEP, AND SWINE LAIRS.

A letter from the Colonial Secretary was read in reply to one in which the Board had recommended the provision of cattle, sheep, and swine lairs at Kennedytown. The Colonial Secretary informed the Board that the Director of Public Works had been instructed to prepare plans for the proposed buildings.

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE.

A letter from the Colonial Secretary was read stating that the Governor proposed to dissolve the Permanent Committee, but before taking that step His Excellency desired to ask what arrangements would be made for carrying out the powers possessed by the Board to deal with epidemics should the Committee be dissolved.

There were several minutes appended. The first was by Mr. Francis, who said that in the event of the Permanent Committee being dissolved the Board would almost certainly appoint another committee under some other name, as it would be impossible for the Board as a whole to do the work. The Colonial Surgeon wrote that some such arrangement as Mr. Francis suggested would no doubt be made. The Director of Public Works asked whether it was clear that the Board had powers to appoint such a committee and give it the free hand it was absolutely necessary it should have to enforce the provisions of the Ordinance.

Mr. FRANCIS asked if there was no power conferred on the Board by the last Ordinance to appoint a committee.

Reference to the Ordinance showed that there was no such power.

The CHAIRMAN said that in the by-laws as

drafted by the Board there was power to appoint such a committee, but it was cut out.

Hon. HO KAI moved a resolution to the effect (1) that in an emergency the Board could only act effectively by a committee, (2) that the Board appeared to have no power to appoint a committee to exercise the full power of the Board, (3) that until such power was conferred on the Board the Governor be requested not to dissolve the Permanent Committee, and (4) that a reply in accordance with the foregoing be addressed to the Colonial Secretary.

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded.

Carried.

DEFECTIVE DRAINS.

A number of reports by the Assistant Surveyor on house drains were considered and in each case where the drains were reported defective the usual order was made for the amendment of the defects. In some of the cases reported upon it appeared that there were privies discharging into the drain without any flushing apparatus—water closets without water, Mr. Leigh termed them.

PUBLIC LATRINES.

A report by Mr. Germain, Senior Inspector of Nuisances, on the condition of public latrines throughout the colony was submitted.

The following minute by the Secretary was appended:—"With regard to latrines these have not been put in a satisfactory condition since attention was called to them in a letter by Dr. Lowson, dated August 21, 1891, which pointed out the dangers of plague propagation through them. As a new system cannot be inaugurated at once, the most stringent measures should be taken to see that they are carefully inspected and kept as clean as possible. At the present juncture one Inspector of Nuisances should have nothing else to do but look after them. This work would have to be done in a most conscientious manner and directions given as to the free use of disinfectants. Unless a system for the regulation of these latrines is inaugurated now there will be a break down in this most important matter when any difficulty arises. Several latrines should be closed at once as nuisances injurious to health."

A desultory conversation ensued in the course of which Mr. FRANCIS said the question divided itself into two parts, first, what was the best system to adopt for the colony generally, and, secondly, how were the present latrines to be dealt with pending the introduction of better ones. Public latrines were a necessity in Hongkong, and, good, bad, or indifferent, the present system must for the present be accepted and made the best of.

On the circulating cover the Director of Public Works, referring to minutes in which Mr. Leigh and Mr. Francis recommended that the Government should at once provide sufficient and good latrine accommodation throughout the city, had made a minute in which he asked if Mr. Francis and Mr. Leigh considered that no duty rested on owners of property to provide suitable accommodation of this nature in connection with the buildings they erected?

Mr. LEIGH, speaking in reference to Mr. Cooper's minute, said that owners of European property must of course look after the provision of accommodation of the nature referred to, but he did not consider that was so in the case of Chinese property, for latrines in Chinese private houses would be a great danger, and public latrines were what were required.

Mr. FRANCIS referred to a case which had occurred in the Supreme Court in which an injunction was granted against the owner of a public latrine, on the ground that it was a nuisance. He spoke of the unsatisfactory character of many of the privately owned latrines, hemmed in as they were by houses, but said no nuisance would arise from Government owned latrines with a sufficient space round them.

Mr. LEIGH said that some years ago the Government commenced to provide latrine accommodation, put up several, and then stopped.

The SECRETARY, in reply to a question, said no disinfectants were used in the buckets except opium packing, and that was merely an absorbent.

The COLONIAL SURGEON suggested that quicklime should be used in the buckets.

The SECRETARY said the Chinese objected to that because they thought it lowered the marital value.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—Mr. Crow says it does not.

The SECRETARY—I do not say it does, but that the Chinese think it does.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. FRANCIS, seconded by Dr. HARTIGAN, that Mr. Ram should be instructed to make an inspection of all public latrines, whether Government or privately owned, as quickly as possible and suggest improvements, and that if possible a medical officer should be associated with him in making the inspection.

WATER CLOSETS.

Permission was given for the introduction of water closets in several European houses.

RIVAL DISINFECTANTS.

An application to tender for the supply of disinfectants was considered and it was resolved that the proprietors of the disinfecting fluid hitherto used be informed of the rates offered by the present applicants and be asked to quote their lowest rates.

POLLUTED WELLS.

A report of analyses of seven samples of water drawn from seven different wells was presented. The Government Analyst certified that in each case the water was so tainted with impurities as to be unfit for potable purposes, and likely to prove injurious to health. The wells referred to are at 6, Old Bailey, 8, Old Bailey, 5, Cochrane Street, 104, Hollywood Road, 6A, High Street, 3, Ng Fuk Lane, and 267, Queen's Road West.

The following minutes were attached:—

Dr. Hartigan—Some of these wells are situated on premises the basements of which have been lately reported as saturated with sewage. Surely under the circumstances it is impossible to make them safe for potable purposes. The source of supply is tainted.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C.—Notice to close up. I should like very much, however, to see some report as to the depth, position, and surroundings of these wells, and to have some statement as to whether they are or are not capable of being put in a sound state.

Mr. R. K. Leigh—Close.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. FRANCIS, it was ordered that the wells be closed.

THE NEW CENTRAL MARKET.

Mr. FRANCIS asked urgency for a motion to the effect that the Government be written to asking for information as to what had been done with reference to the report sent in by the Board concerning the new Central Market.

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded.

Carried.

THE SQUATTERS AT CAUSEWAY BAY.

A letter was read from Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., in reply to an inquiry by the Board, in which they stated that lots 1019, 1020, and 1021 were occupied by squatters entirely without their permission, that they strongly objected to the squatters keeping swine on their property, and that they were very pleased that the Sanitary Board were willing to assist them by refusing licences.

It was resolved that the applications for licences to keep swine on the above property be refused and that the applicants be prosecuted if they continued to keep swine.

COCKLOFTS.

The CHAIRMAN—The Secretary informs me he has received a large number of applications to retain cocklofts, some of them in lodging houses. I move that a small committee be appointed.

Mr. FRANCIS—I beg to move that a committee of one, consisting of Mr. Leigh, be appointed. (Laughter.)

Mr. LEIGH begged to decline.

The CHAIRMAN—I am quite willing to undertake this work, for one.

Mr. LEIGH—I think it would be a very good arrangement if it were left in the hands of the Vice-President, with the Secretary.

It was resolved that the matter be left in the hands of the Vice-President.

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's report for the quarter ended 31st March stated that during the period no cases of infectious or contagious disease amongst animals were brought to his notice; the animals imported for slaughtering purposes were, as a rule, in fairly good condition, and the supply was equal to the demand. The new Central Market was expected to be ready for occupation early this month.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate per 1,000 per annum for the week ended 30th March was 17.1 as against 16.3 at the corresponding period last year.

SMALL-POX.

The SECRETARY reported that there had been four cases of small-pox, two Europeans and two Chinese, and in each case disinfection had been carried out.

The COLONIAL SURGEON said the patients were all doing well.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned.

H.M.S. "SEVERN."

H.M.S. *Severn* will leave in a few days homeward bound. She has been on this station for some years, and as the crew leave a great number of friends behind, it will be interesting to them to hear some details about her stay on this coast. She first commissioned at Portsmouth on the 15th February, 1889, and arrived in Hongkong in May of that year. Her complement is 332 officers and men, and she carries the following guns:—two 8 inch, ten 6 inch breech loading guns, and fifteen machine and quick-firing guns; tonnage, 4060; speed, 17½ knots; above water she has two torpedo tubes and below one. The present crew came out in January, 1892, and commissioned the *Severn* on the 16th February the same year. After refitting the vessel cruised with the squadron till October, visiting various ports in Japan, Russian Siberia, and Korea, returning to Shanghai to spend Christmas. For five months she remained in that port and made herself quite at home. The *Severn's* football team will be well remembered as having won some good matches, and her boats also did well, one of them winning a silver cup at that port. Next the squadron was joined again at Yokohama for the summer cruise, which was about half over when the Siam troubles occurred, and the incident of the *Pallas* caused a ship to be sent south. The *Severn* showed her steaming qualities by coming from Hokodate to Hongkong in six days, calling on her way at Yokohama. Affairs having quieted down in Siam she steamed back north, going up as far as the Behring Sea, where she coaled and provisioned a gunboat at sea.

Her next spell was at Singapore, where she was senior officer's ship. Bangkok and various other ports were visited, and when the Admiral came south a cruise was made with him to Java and Sumatra. On her way back to Hongkong a visit was paid to Saigon, when the crew had occasion to compare the French colony to their own (much to the advantage of Hongkong). On the third summer's cruise the *Severn* visited Chefoo, in May last year, at which time the crew entertained the residents by a performance. From there she went across to Port Arthur and Talienwan Bay to witness the Viceroy's inspection, and was paid a visit by Li Hung-chang. Six months later she again visited those places to see them taken by the Japanese.

In June, 1894, when the *Drumellan* became a wreck at Sanegosima, the *Severn* was the chief instrument in restoring that ship to her proper element.

When the war broke out the *Severn* was the first ship dispatched to the scene of action, entering Chemulpo soon after the *Kowshing* was sunk, and since that time she has been constantly on the move, being present at the taking of Talienwan, the landing at Yung-ching, and the surrender of Weihaiwei.

As the crew of the *Severn* has also taken part in several fleet regattas and carried off the Admiral's cup (by Lieut. Gillett) and many other prizes, they will be well satisfied with their three and a half years in the Far East and will be able to tell many yarns when they return home to their friends.

ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY APPEALS TO THE CHINESE.

On Thursday afternoon the annual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals was held at the Alice Memorial Hospital. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart presided, and there were also present Dr. Thomson, Rev. T. W. Pearce, and Mr. W. H. Wickham (Treasurer).

The COLONIAL SECRETARY was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year, and in returning thanks said:—I thank you very much for the honour you have done me in electing me Chairman, and I can only say, in reference to

the remark made by Dr. Thomson, that it is my desire to work hard for the hospital, but it is a question of time. I have so many things to attend to now that I am afraid I shall not be able to devote as much time as I should like to the hospital, but I assure you that I shall do my best, and if, as the year goes on, that best is not satisfactory, we can take steps to have another Chairman. I trust, however, that the Committee will co-operate, as they always might, with the Chairman in endeavouring to have this hospital put upon a more satisfactory financial footing than it is at present. Year after year goes by, and the same story presents itself. We find the finances in anything but a satisfactory condition, and our treasury more than empty—which is an Irish way of putting of it. Considering the good work that this hospital has performed and the large number of people it benefits, it deserves not only the support of people interested in work of this kind, but the support of everyone who desires to give a helping hand to what is a good and charitable work. I especially refer to the Chinese community. When we remember that it is the Chinese who are almost entirely benefited by this Institution I think it behoves them to help it in every possible way; and I have every confidence that the charitable members of that community will come forward and help us in a material manner—help which will lead to material results. I am sure I am echoing the sentiments of all people connected with this Institution when I say that we are exceedingly glad to have back with us Dr. Thomson. We all know how thoroughly hard he worked when connected with this hospital prior to his going home, and we feel sure that if any success is to be obtained by hard work and by those other good qualities which Dr. Thomson possesses in such large measure, the Alice Memorial Hospital is bound to succeed in every respect, especially in its financial respect. I am certain I am doing only what you wish me to do when I welcome Mr. Thomson back to Hongkong, and express the hope that he will not take it into his head to depart for western shores again. What impresses us most now is the absence of funds. You all know the reasons, perhaps, why subscriptions have not been coming in so freely as we should like. I think those reasons have ceased to exist, and I trust that we shall soon have a treasury worthy of the Institution, and be able, not only to continue the good work of the hospital, but to increase it. The hospital during the last year, when this colony was suffering from the bubonic plague, did not hesitate to come forward to help in the endeavours which were made by the medical gentlemen to combat the ravages of the disease; and I think the management of the Institution—I refer to the medical management and not to the financial portion—deserves the very greatest credit for the manner in which they came forward on that occasion, and I am very glad to be able to also tender the thanks of the Committee to the matron and the other ladies for their noble and sympathising efforts to save from death those people who had been attacked by plague. The Alice Memorial Hospital has not received the recognition it deserves, but the work was not done for recognition, but to show that the staff wished to work for help's sake and not for glory's sake. There was the subject of co-operation. It was not one or two men that made an Institution successful; they would not be so successful as they should be if they had not co-operation. I think, in this connection, I may use a word which was used in another sense and under quite a different set of circumstances—combination. Our motto should be "combination," and I trust that having combination we shall have in our ranks all classes of the community and all interested in doing good work.

Dr. THOMSON presented his report for the past year.

It was decided to collect the subscriptions in April and May instead of in November and December.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY referred to the great services Dr. Burton had rendered to the hospital during Dr. Thomson's absence, and special thanks were awarded to him.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. had written to the hon. treasurer informing him that they wished to pay \$9,000 which had been in their hands for several years, and it was decided to appoint a

Committee who should have power to re-invest the money.

It was also announced by the CHAIRMAN that the Institution was in debt to the extent of \$1,400. He believed it was Dr. Cantlie who said that a hospital never succeeded until it was in debt. If this debt were emphasised, said the Colonial Secretary, probably people might be inclined to contribute more readily.

THE MUTINY AND ATTEMPTED MURDER ON THE "LAUNBERGA."

MAGISTERIAL INVESTIGATION.

At the Police Court on Thursday, before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, the four seamen, George Brown, J. S. Land, Y. Goydziewski, and Hans Abrams, were charged on remand with mutiny and attempted murder on the British barque *Launberga*, at Iloilo, on the 23rd ult. Mr. Ellis (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) conducted the prosecution, and the prisoners were undefended.

Mr. Ellis said that before proceeding with the facts of the case, he would ask the Magistrate's permission to amend the charges, which were somewhat indefinite. Mutiny was not a crime in itself, and therefore he specified the charges as follows. All the prisoners for attempting to murder the Captain, Mr. J. S. McDougall, and assaulting the first mate, Mr. Bowyer; Brown for attempting to murder Robert Otto, the steward; Goydziewski for assaulting the steward; and all of them for refusing to obey orders and leaving the ship without permission. The last charge came within section 225 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

The prisoners pleaded not guilty, and Abrams said they had been unable to obtain the lawyer they wanted.

Mr. Ellis said the *Launberga* arrived at Iloilo on the morning of the 22nd March. The captain received instructions from the authorities and also from the British Vice-Consul not to allow the men to go ashore. About six o'clock on the afternoon of the 23rd ult. the captain was standing on the quarterdeck when he saw Brown and Schumen, the latter of whom had since died, go to the first mate, who was standing on the main rail, amidsthips, on the starboard side, talking to the second mate. The captain heard the men threaten the mate, doubtless because of the refusal of their request to go ashore. The captain went to his cabin, and hearing a disturbance returned. While he was in his cabin Brown and Schumen assaulted the first mate very seriously, and the other defendants also joined in the affray. The boatswain went to the first mate's assistance, and walked on to the poop. As he was going Brown picked up the door of the hen coop and threw it at the first mate, but missed him. He then hurled a piece of coal at him and struck him on the face. The blow was such a severe one that the first mate fell senseless to the ground. The captain came up on deck with his revolver and saw the men continuing the disturbance, although the mate was lying insensible near them. He told them to desist. They refused, and he then warned them that if they did not stop their ill-usage he would shoot them. The prisoners, Schumen, and Patrick Kelly thereupon drew their knives, and Kelly rushed forward and stabbed the captain in the forehead, and inflicted an ugly gash. The captain then pulled out his revolver and fired at Kelly, who fell and died shortly afterwards. The other men made an attack upon the captain with their drawn knives and it was not until the second mate and the boatswain came to his assistance that he was able to stagger to his cabin. He also sustained a large cut on his finger, and was otherwise ill-treated. The steward also came on to the deck and Goydziewski struck him a violent blow in the face and knocked him down, and Brown stabbed him in the back with a knife. Two of the defendants made further threats and attempted to force open the captain's cabin. Shortly afterwards the men lowered a boat and went ashore, where they were arrested, and taken before the Naval Court on 28th and 29th March. The first mate was not present, as he remained to look after the affairs of the ship.

Evidence was then called.

Mr. Arthur, first clerk to the Magistrates, put in the documents received from the Colonial Secretary's Office, and also the report of the proceedings at the Naval Court conducted by the Vice-Consul at Iloilo.

Captain McDougall gave evidence in support of the opening statement; and added that he heard Schuman, who died in gaol after his arrest, say to the first mate, "You old —, you will not give us liberty." When the men assaulted the mate witness said "Do you intend to murder him?" and then ordered them forward. They refused to go and he drew his revolver and they drew their knives. It was not until he was stabbed by Kelly that he fired his revolver.

The prisoners' defence was that the row started with the first mate and Brown. Brown, they said, was looking over a railing when the mate asked him what business he had there, and Brown said "Can you turn me away?" They then challenged each other to fight, and the mate was knocked down twice. He went to the poop, picked up a belaying pin, and shied it at Brown, who picked up a lump of coal and hurled it at the first mate. The captain then came up. Brown said that he struck the captain, but Kelly, the man who was fatally shot, did not.

The prisoners were committed for trial. The case lasted six hours.

OUTBREAK OF THE PLAGUE AT MACAO.

There is no doubt now that the plague has broken out at Macao. During the past week various rumours have been afloat in the colony that the epidemic had made its appearance at Macao, and there is, unfortunately, every ground for the assertion. Several deaths have been reported during the week, and from one authority we learn that the average number has been a dozen a day. It is also stated that the plague has broken out at Canton, but the Chinese do not confirm that report.

LATER.

On Saturday morning Mr. A. G. Romano, the Portuguese Consul, telegraphed to the Governor of Macao asking if it were true, as stated in the *Daily Press*, that there was an epidemic of plague at Macao. In reply Mr. Romano received the following telegram from the Colonial Secretary at Macao:—

"There is no epidemic in Macao, only sporadic cases of plague, not with the Chinese residents of Macao; principally Chinese passengers from Canton. Yesterday a Chinaman showed symptoms of plague. He came from Hongkong the day before yesterday. The Government are taking precautions and are building matsheds for hospitals to be used in case of an epidemic, which you will be informed of immediately."

From this message it seems as if the plague were at Canton, as not one of the sufferers at Macao was a resident in the colony. In regard to the statement that one of the afflicted patients came from Hongkong, we do not think there need be any fear that the plague has visited Hongkong up to the present. From enquiries we have made we learn that no cases of plague have been reported in the colony.

DISASTROUS EXPLOSION AT THE WOOSUNG FORTS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]
SHANGHAI, 11th April.

A forty-ton Armstrong gun exploded yesterday in one of the forts at Woosung while target practice was going on, exploding also the contiguous magazine. Forty officers and men were killed or wounded. The neighbouring houses were wrecked.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, 10th April.

The negotiations for peace are proceeding smoothly at Shimonosaki.

It is understood on good authority that the conditions comprise the autonomy of Korea, the cession of Southern Manchuria, including Port Arthur, the cession of Formosa the opening of Chinese ports and rivers to foreign commerce, the payment of a war indemnity of 400,000,000 yen, and the occupation of strategic points until such time as the indemnity is paid.

LONDON, 11th April.

The Japanese war party is obstructing the negotiations for peace.

LONDON, 13th April.

It is reported that China and Japan have arrived at an understanding and that there are prospects of an early peace.

A private telegram from a Chinese official at Hiroshima reports that the terms of peace were finally agreed upon on the 13th instant.

It is rumoured that Japan has reduced the war indemnity by 100,000,000 yen and has agreed to be satisfied with the cession of the Liaotung peninsula.

It is semi-officially stated in St. Petersburg that Russia will firmly oppose any annexation of the mainland of China by Japan.

THE "FEIMA" CHANNEL BLOCKED.

Messrs. Siemssen & Co. inform us that they have received the following telegram from Shanghai:—

"Feima Channel blocked."

The Harbour Master also informs us that he has received the following telegram from the Coast Inspector, Shanghai:—

"Please warn vessels Feima Channel unsafe."

SEIZURE OF A BRITISH STEAMER BY THE JAPANESE.

Information has been received that the Indo-China steamer *Yikang*, Captain Bradley, bound from Shanghai to Tientsin, on being searched by a Japanese man-of-war outside Takow was found to have a quantity of cartridges on board. She was thereupon arrested and taken to Port Arthur. The cases containing the cartridges were shipped by a firm at Shanghai as bamboo steel.

AFFAIRS IN SOUTH FORMOSA.

From a letter dated Tainanfoo, 6th April, we make the following extracts:—

Since the occupation of the Pescadores the Japanese have made no move, as far as can be ascertained, although rumours have been current that men-of-war have been seen to the south of Takow. It is reported that cholera has broken out among the Japanese coolies at Makung.

H.M.S. *Leander* was at Tainanfoo when the *Thales* left, and the *Severn* at Takow. The *Tweed* is to be stationed inside the harbour at Takow, and the launch *Anping* will probably be armed, manned by blue jackets from the *Leander*, and moored alongside the bund of the settlement at Anping. It is said that there are a thousand Canton soldiers around the city of Tainanfoo, who, when the Japanese attacked the Pescadores, looted right and left, and then bolted to Formosa. The authorities are endeavouring to keep them out of the city, where there is great uneasiness among the well-to-do Chinese. This only shows what would happen if the Japanese attacked Formosa, and how necessary it is that foreigners and foreign property should be protected.

The *Thales* takes a large number of passengers away. Business is very unsettled, chiefly owing to the disturbed state of the country, rendering it unsafe to send goods, or money, into the interior.

THE JAPANESE AT THE PESCADORES.

JAPANESE DYING FROM CHOLERA.

The *Thales*, which arrived here on Wednesday from Tainanfoo, Amoy, and Swatow, brought additional information respecting the Japanese at the Pescadores. The steamer left Tainanfoo on the 7th inst., and passing close to the Pescadores the captain sighted six Japanese men-of-war and five transports anchored off Fisher Island. The *Litsitah* light was burning. The *Thales* brought a number of Chinese passengers, twelve of them landing at Swatow, and seventy-five at Hongkong. From the account they gave of the fall of the Pescadores it seems that when the Japanese were seen descending upon the islands, a large number of Chinese junks, filled with scared natives, hurriedly left for the mainland. Several of them were shot and plundered by native robbers, and one soldier, who landed about eight miles from Tainanfoo, was mistaken for a thief and shot in the arm. A couple of slugs and a piece of his coat were embedded in his arm, and these were extracted by Dr. Cairns, of the Tainanfoo Mission. The Japanese, on landing, captured an exceedingly large number of prisoners, but all except a thousand were released. H.M.S. *Leander* called at the Pescadores, and found that several

Japanese had been attacked by cholera, and several deaths, due to the exposure of dead bodies, are reported. H.M.S. *Leander* and *Spartan* are at Takow.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

The Easter meeting of the Hongkong Rifle Association, which concluded on Monday afternoon, was a complete success in every way. There was a larger number of entries, the prizes were more valuable, and the shooting was of a higher standard than in any previous year, and the whole of the arrangements were carried out in a very creditable manner by the many hard-worked officials. It is unfortunate, however, that the civil community did not participate to any appreciable extent in the Bisley of Hongkong. The competitors were almost entirely composed of members of the Army and the Police force, and if those Volunteers who went to the ranges are included, there were only three or four private residents who thought it worth while to shoot. The real reason of this cannot be stated, but one gentleman gave an explanation, which seems to be a very good one, and which might account for the conspicuous absence of civilians. There are no competitions for what may be called "dabblers" in shooting—those gentlemen who like to shoot, but who do not like the idea of competing against first class shots because they have no time for practice at the targets, and therefore would have no chance of winning against the well trained marksmen. This fact may in some way account for the lack of interest displayed by non-official residents, and the Committee might do well to take the matter into consideration. It must be mentioned, however, that many leading private residents have contributed not a little to the success of the meeting by giving prizes. The weather during the whole of Friday, Saturday, and Monday was brilliantly fine, and the consequence was some very good scores were made. The winner of the Queen's aggregate was Lieutenant Hoey, who reached a total of 276 points. Inspector Mann also obtained a similar score, but the Lieutenant was placed first because he did better at the long distance ranges. A new feature of this year's meeting was that Martini-Henri rifles were allowed ten points at the long ranges. There were very few visitors at the meeting, except yesterday afternoon, when there was a very large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, including His Excellency the Governor. Major-General Digby Barker, and Admiral Fremantle, and all of them took a keen interest in the ever popular ladies' competition, in which Mrs. Dalrymple carried off the first prize with a score of 29. Miss Barker was very unfortunate in not gaining the premier position. She first scored 30, but was disqualified on the ground that she was coached during her shooting by a certain gallant captain. She went to the range a second time, but made only 27, thus gaining the fourth prize. At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Barker distributed the prizes. Much praise is due to Major Moore, the honorary secretary, and Inspector Mann, the assistant honorary secretary, for their indefatigable efforts in making the meeting such a success as it undoubtedly was.

The following is a complete list of the prize winners:—

- 1.—*All Comers*.—Distance 200 yards. No. of Shots—Seven. Unlimited entries, 30 cents each. Ten prizes, value \$45.

{ Corporal Clarke, R.B.	34
{ Mr. Webber, R.E.	34
Sapper Lawson, R.E.	34
Inspector Mann	33
Sergeant Shearing	33
Colour-Sergeant Horsman	33
Lieutenant Boden	33
Private Godbear	33
Colour-Sergeant Hopkins, R.B. ...	33
Mr. G. P. Lammert	32
- 2.—*Martini-Henry Carbine Competition*.—Distance 200 yards. Members only. No of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Four prizes, value 70 per cent of the entries with \$10 added.

Mr. J. Lowrie	33
Mr. Stewart	30
Captain Murray	30
Mr. May	30
Mr. E. C. Shepherd	28
- 3.—*Queen's, 1st Stage*.—Distance 200 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. En-

france 50 cents. Four prizes, value 70 per cent. of the entries with \$10 added. Position—Standing or Kneeling.	
Corporal Collines, R.B.	32
Private Godbear	31
Lieutenant Power	31
Colour-Sergeant Hopkins } divide	31
4.— Ladies' Tournament —Open to Lady Members or their Nominees.—Distance 300 yards. No. of Shots—Seven. No entrance fee. See conditions Nos. 3 and 14. Eight Prizes presented by Mr. V. H. Deacon, Messrs. Kelly Walsh, Limited, Messrs. Kuhn & Co., Messrs. Lock Hing, Mr. A. C. Marshall, Mr. A. G. Stokes, Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G., and Mr. Wong Hing.	
Mrs. Mann nominated Inspector Mann	30
Mrs. Dalrymple nominated Mr. Boden	28
Miss Kyle nominated Mr. J. Henderson	28
Mrs. Botfield nominated Mr. Power	28
Mrs. Ecoles nominated Mr. Long	23
Mrs. Mackintosh nominated Mr. E. C. Shepherd	23
Mrs. Lammert nominated Mr. G. P. Lammert	28
Mrs. Clement Palmer nominated Capt. Palmer	27
5.— Association —300 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Unlimited entries, 30 cents each. Five prizes, 70 per cent. of entries.	
Inspector Mann	33
Private Ralvey	30
Major Wrottesley	30
Private Godbear	29
Sergeant Shearing	29
6.— Martini-Henry Carbine Competition —Distance 500 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Four prizes, value 70 per cent. of the entries with \$10 added.	
Mr. G. P. Lammert	27
Mr. J. Lowrie	27
Mr. W. Stewart	26
Mr. F. H. May	25
7.— All Comers —Distance 500 yards. No. of Shots—Seven. Unlimited entries, 30 cents each. Ten prizes, value \$45.	
Private Godbear, R.B.	35
Corporal Clarke, R.B.	34
Colour-Sergeant Smith, R.B.	33
Lieutenant R. Arbuthnot	33
Mr. Webber, R.E.	33
Lieutenant Hoey	33
Mr. D. McLennan	33
Mr. Boden	32
Mr. Power	32
Acting Corporal Woolridge	32
8.— Queen's, 1st Stage —Distance 500 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Four prizes, value 70 per cent. of the entries with \$10 added.	
Colour-Sergeant Hopkins	33
Colour-Sergeant Lacey	33
Colour-Sergeant Horsman	32
Captain Palmer	32
9.— Queen's, 2nd Stage —Distance 500 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Ten. Entrance 50 cents. Five prizes, value 70 per cent. of the entries with \$10 added.	
Colour-Sergeant Harsman	46
Major Moore	46
Colour-Sergeant Hopkins	45
Lieutenant Hoey	44
Mr. D. McDonald	43
10.— Queen's, 1st Stage —Distance 600 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Four prizes value 70 per cent. of the entries, with \$10 added. Martini Henry rifles allowed 1 point.	
Sapper Thompson	32
Inspector Mann	31
Captain Palmer	30
Colour-Sergeant Hopkins	30
11.— Queen's, 2nd Stage —Distance 600 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Fifteen. Entrance 50 cents. Four prizes, value 70 per cent. of the entries, with \$10 added. Martini Henry rifles allowed 2 points.	
Inspector Mann	66
Private Godbear	66
Acting Corporal Woolridge	65
Private Priddle	64
12.— All Comers —Distance 600 yards. No. of Shots—Seven. Unlimited entries, 30 cents each. Seven prizes, value 70 per cent. of the entries.	
Lieutenant Hoey	34
Colour-Sergeant Horsman	32

Colour-Sergeant Lacey	32
Najah Ali	32
Sergeant Shearing	31
Captain Palmer	31
Mr. D. McLennan	31
13.— Queen's, 3rd Stage —Distance 800 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Ten. Entrance 50 cents. Four prizes, value 70 per cent. of the entries, with \$10 added. Presented by <i>Daily Press</i> . Martini Henry rifles allowed 3 points. (Cordite penalized 1 point in addition.)	
Mr. D. McDonald	44
Private Woolridge	43
Corporal Clarke	43
Sapper Thompson	43
14.— Queen's 3rd Stage —Distance 900 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Ten. Entrance 50 cents. Four prizes, value 70 per cent. of the entries, with \$10 added. Martini Henry rifles allowed 4 points. Cordite penalized 1 point in addition.	
Colour-Sergeant Horsman	44
Lieutenant Hoey	44
Mr. Shepherd	42
Mr. Webber, R.E.	40
15.— Queen's, 1st Stage, Aggregate —Optional sweepstake of 50 cents each. The highest scorer takes the pool.	
Colour-Sergeant Hopkins	94
16.— Carbine Aggregate —Optional sweepstake of 50 cents each. The highest scorer takes the pool.	
Mr. Lowrie	60
17.— Nursery Aggregate —Restricted to Members who have never won outright an Association Subscription Cup, or a First or Second prize exceeding the value of £1 at any previous prize meeting in Hongkong or elsewhere, and whose respective scores in competitions Nos. 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 (the three stages of the Queen's) make the highest aggregates. Entrance \$1. 1st prize, Cup presented by Capt. Palmer and three other prizes, 70 per cent. of entries.	
Acting Cor. Woolridge	269
Mr. Webber	254
Sapper Thompson	249
Private Priddle	249
18.— Queen's, 2nd Stage, Aggregate —Optional sweepstake of 50 cents each. The highest scorer to take the pool.	
Inspector Mann	108
19.— Association —800 and 900 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Five at each range. Unlimited entries. 30 cents each. Prizes 70 per cent. of entries for highest aggregate scores. Best scores at each distance to count towards Aggregate. Three prizes.	
Lieutenant Hoey	46
Captain Palmer	44
Private Godbear	42
Private Tonn	42
20.— Queen's, 3rd Stage, Aggregate —Optional sweepstake of 50 cents each. The highest scorer to take the pool.	
Lieutenant Hoey	84
21.— Queen's Aggregate —For Competitors whose respective scores in the Three Stages of the Queen's make up the highest aggregates. Entrance \$1. Prizes to be selected by winners in order of merit as laid down by rule 14 in Ladies' Competition. Eleven prizes, presented by H.E. Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, K.C.B., C.M.G., H.E. Lt. General Barker, C.B., Mr. D. Gillies, the Members of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, Mr. T. Jackson, Hon. J. J. Keswick, Mr. E. Mackintosh, <i>Hongkong Telegraph</i> , Mr. C. A. Tones, and Major Wrottesley, R.E.	
Lieutenant Hoey	276
Inspector Mann	276
Acting Corporal Woolridge	269
Colour-Sergeant Horsmann	262
Mr. E. C. Shepherd	257
Mr. Webber, R.E.	254
Major Wrottesley	254
Sapper Thompson	249
Private Priddle	249
Captain Palmer	249
Corporal Clarke	244
Mr. E. C. Shepherd wins the National Rifle Association medal for the highest score with a Martini Henry Rifle.	

22.— Ladies' Competition —Open to Lady Members only. About 70 yards. Seven shots—one sighting shot. No entrance fee. Rifles and Ammunition provided by the Association. Nine prizes, presented by Surgeon-Captain Beveridge, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Mr. C. V. Ladds, Mr. A. C. Marshall, Major G. K. Moore, Mr. H. C. Nicolle, Mr. F. Robinson, Major Wrottesley and Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G.	
Mrs. Dalrymple	29
Mrs. Botfield	28
Mrs. May	27
Miss Barker	27
Mrs. Matheson	27
Mrs. Hoey	26
Mrs. Moore	26
Mrs. Hawkins	26
Mrs. Hanson	24

THE GOVERNMENT, THE SHIPPING FIRMS, AND THE STRIKE.

On the 2nd inst. a letter was addressed by the Colonial Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, in connection with the strike, to the effect that the Governor was informed that offers of labour had been made on certain conditions and declined, and that the firms had also clauses in their agreements with their compradores by which they might have brought pressure to bear, but had neglected to do so, thereby failing to render to the Government the loyal support they might have done. The letter was published in our issue of the 3rd inst. The following is the reply of the Chamber of Commerce, enclosing letters from the various firms:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
10th April, 1895.

Sir,—I am instructed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant and to inform you that by request of the Committee I forwarded a copy of it to the firms in the colony connected with shipping with the accompanying letter, and I have now the honour to enclose replies from the following, viz:—Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.; Butterfield & Swire; Dodwell, Carlill & Co.; Gibb, Livingston & Co.; Jardine, Matheson & Co.; Alf. Woolley, Esq.; Messrs. Melchers & Co.; Meyer & Co.; Siamssen & Co.; Shewan & Co.; Mitsui Bussan Kaisha; D. E. Brown, Esq.

The Committee are of opinion that a perusal of these letters will remove any doubt which may exist as to the general inaccuracy of the information upon which your letter appears to have been written, and serve to refute statements (1), (2), (3), and (4) of your favour under reply.

The Committee cannot concur in the opinion that the leading firms had it in their power to put an end to the strike by the adoption of the means enumerated in your letter, and they do not know upon what grounds these firms can be charged with any desire to cast the entire responsibility of ending the labour strike on the Government.

The exact contrary seems to be the fact, for the whole community without exception were anxious to assist the Government by every possible means to bring to a termination, as speedily as possible, a state of affairs which to the shipping and local interest was extremely costly.

In conclusion, and with special reference to the last paragraph of your letter, the Committee cannot but view with regret the charges of insincerity directed in your letter against members of the community, and they consider it contrary to the public interest that in a serious labour crisis a spirit of discord should be introduced, when instead moderation of language and calm judgment are eminently required.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

F. HENDERSON, Secretary.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 4th April, 1895.

The Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—In reply to your favour of 3rd inst. we beg to state that we have no agreement with our compradore to supply coolies at a fixed rate nor have we been able to secure coolies, during

the recent strike, notwithstanding all our efforts to that effect.—Yours obediently,

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.

Hongkong, 4th April, 1895.

F. Henderson, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Present.

Dear Sir,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of yesterday's date, together with copy enclosed of a letter addressed to the Chamber by the Colonial Secretary with reference to the present coolie strike, and we note that your Committee before replying to same would be glad to have an expression of opinion in so far as the contents of the letter are applicable to our business.

We would state in reply that we have not had any offer from Chinese or others to supply coolies as indicated by the Colonial Secretary in paragraph numbered 1 of his letter, nor have we any agreement with a clause of the nature indicated with our compradore or the stevedores usually employed by us, as to the supplying of coolies for cargo working, and consequently we have been unable to take any steps as suggested by the Colonial Secretary to compel them by law to find coolies during the strike. We have, therefore, had to content ourselves with bringing all the pressure we could privately on them to make them supply coolies, which have been very much wanted, and this we have not hesitated to do. So far we have thereby met with some measure of success, but our requirements have only been pressing us very late in the day, say since the day before yesterday.—Yours faithfully,

GIBB LIVINGSTON & Co.

Hongkong, 5th April, 1895.

F. Henderson, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—In reply to your favour of the 3rd inst. enclosing copy of a letter from the Colonial Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, we beg to inform you that we have no knowledge of the facts therein alleged.—We are, sir, your obedient servants,

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

Hongkong, 5th April, 1895.

F. Henderson, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Present.

Dear Sir,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your circular letter of the 3rd inst. enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to the Chamber by the Colonial Secretary and wishing an expression of opinion thereon by us.

In reply we beg to say that no such offers as mentioned under sections 1 and 2 have been made to us, and that we have no such clause in the agreement with our compradore as is stated in sections 3 and 4.—We are, dear sir, yours faithfully,

MEYER & Co.

Hongkong, 3rd April, 1895.

F. Henderson, Esq., Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Present.

Dear Sir,—Replying to your favour of this date, by which you hand us a copy of a letter addressed to your Chamber by the Colonial Secretary, we beg to state that in spite of all efforts we did not succeed to get coolies, under any circumstances, from any Chinamen in the recent strike, nor have we any agreement with our compradore to supply our firm with coolies at a certain rate.—We are, dear sir, yours respectfully,

SIEMSEN & Co.

Hongkong, 6th April, 1895.

F. Henderson, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of your letter of 3rd inst. enclosing copy of letter from the Colonial Secretary having reference to the coolie strike and asking our opinion thereon.

We must first apologize for not having sooner replied to your letter, but the strike having terminated immediately after its receipt we did not think any further action would be taken in the matter.

As to the Colonial Secretary's remarks we have simply to say that our opinion has all along been that the quickest way to end the strike was to take no notice of it and do the best we could with the temporary labour supplied by the Police and others until the coolies returned to their senses, which we felt sure they would soon do if left alone to their own resources. We had no

offers from any Chinese to supply us with coolies, but if we had, anxious as we were to assist the Government in every possible way, we should have been bound to enquire very closely into the responsibility of those making the offer and into the skill and capacity of such coolies for stevedore work before we engaged them.

We have no such clause in the agreement with our compradore as that referred to in paragraph 3 of the Colonial Secretary's letter.—We remain, dear sir, your obedient servants.

SHEWAN & Co.

Hongkong, 4th April, 1895.

The Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Gentleman,—We are in receipt of your letter dated yesterday, and in reply we beg to state that we have already made an arrangement with our compradore, as well as with our stevedore, to supply us with coolies sufficient for our present requirements, and our ships have resumed the unloading of cargo, either from yesterday noon or from this morning.

As far as we are concerned, therefore, the present trouble of getting labour is now in end.—We are, gentleman, yours faithfully,

(For the MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA)
K. FUKUI, Manager.

Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

Hongkong, 4th April, 1895.

F. Henderson, Esq., Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—Replying to yours of the 3rd inst., enclosing copy of a letter addressed to your Chamber by the Colonial Secretary and asking in connection therewith an expression of opinion from myself, among others, in so far as the contents of the letter are applicable to this Company's business during the recent coolie strike,

Would state that items 1 and 2 in the Colonial Secretary's letter had no reference to this Company, as we received no such offer.

With regard to items 3 and 4 I think it will be found that a number of the principal shipping firms, this Company among the rest, did take combined action prior to the first public meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, notifying their compradores or stevedores that they would be held responsible for the failure to carry out their agreements, whether verbal or written. This, I consider, was as far as the shipping firms could reasonably be expected to go at that stage of the strike, as it would be a matter for subsequent consideration whether recourse to law was necessary or advisable.

With regard to the closing paragraphs of the Colonial Secretary's letter, I would state as my opinion that the return to work this morning of the striking coolies, and the defeat of the strikers without compromise on the part of the Government or the shipping community, is due mainly to the following three causes:—

First—The combined action of the shipping firms prior to the first meeting at the Chamber of Commerce.

Second—The firm stand taken by His Excellency the Governor in refusing to accede to any modification of the law.

Third—The combined firm attitude of both Government and community since the second meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, not forgetting the very valuable services rendered by the police, the sailors, and the soldiers in furnishing men, ever since the strike broke out, to work ships.

And last, but not least, the firm determination of some of the Companies to import foreign labour from the north for their own account, rather than submit much longer to the inconvenience and loss they were experiencing.

The loss to the shipping community has been enormous, and the inconvenience most distressing and annoying, the annoyance being greatly aggravated by our apparent inability to get at and punish the ringleaders or instigators of the strike.

Consequently, if I am not digressing directly from what should constitute my reply to your communication, may I before closing my letter take the liberty of suggesting to the Chamber of Commerce (comprising as it does members of almost every shipping firm in the colony) the advisability of representing to the Government the necessity for some such legislation as will prevent a recurrence of the recent means employed by interested portions of the Chinese community in attacking and instigating a labour

strike against the shipping community because of certain laws which they considered burdensome to them, and which they wished to avoid by fair means or foul. The strikers had no grievance against the shipping community, and it is not fair that we should be continually exposed without redress to these pernicious attacks through us instead of directly against the Government.

Had the recent strike resulted from a disagreement between the European employers of labour and the coolies, no doubt steps would have been taken much earlier by the various shipping firms interested to arrive at an amicable settlement of the differences, but it did not, and no strike is likely to occur between the European community and the coolies, for the reason that the labour required by the shipping community is supplied through middlemen, with whom we arrange to furnish it.—I remain, dear sir, yours truly,

D. E. BROWN, General Agent.

Hongkong, 4th April, 1895.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 3rd inst. we have no arrangement with our compradore or any other persons, such as is suggested by the Colonial Secretary.

As regards the importation of labour from other places, we have tried Swatow—the best procurable in the immediate neighbourhood—in the past, and found it unsatisfactory, compared with local coolies; besides, the risk of Swatow men departing at a moment's notice makes the chance of their leaving us in the lurch as great as is incurred with local workmen, plus the indifference, if not objection, of latter to resume the employment of those antagonistic to them.

Further, our inclination to import Swatow men has been checked by the terms demanded, viz., that we should guarantee them two years' continuous sequential employment. We consider it our bounden duty to take that course which appears best for our present and future interests, without reference to the incidences of the ephemeral disturbance between the Government and the native population that has recently been provoked, knowing full well that it was only a question of time when a collapse of the strike would occur. Under such circumstances it would have been the height of folly to have entered into permanent future engagements that would have seriously hampered our operations. In such matters each individual is a better judge of his own actions than irresponsible outsiders, whose suggestions are usually crude and impracticable.

This being so, the application of the final paragraph in the Colonial Secretary's letter to which you direct attention is inappropriate and uncalled for, and suggests to our minds unreasonable captiousness and ignorance of the true position.

If the Government had proposed to bear the loss that followed from their legislation, we would have been disposed to view the matter differently; they would then have had an interest with the employers of labour; as it is they have none, and to seek to increase the involuntary losses imposed upon the community of this colony in the name of "loyalty" is little short of madness.—We have the honour to be, dear sir, your obedient servants,

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

F. Henderson, Esq., Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, April 8th, 1895.

Fullarton Henderson, Esq., Secretary, The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, Present.

Dear Sir,—We have to acknowledge your letter of the 3 inst. enclosing copy of a letter dated the 2nd idem addressed to the Chamber by the Colonial Secretary with reference to the present coolie strike, and in reply we beg to state that as regards paragraph

(1) No offers were made to us directly or indirectly by any Chinese to supply us with coolies for stevedore purposes at any rate of pay.

(2) The two firms of stevedores who do almost the entire work of the vessels consigned to us were in each case most anxious and energetic in their endeavours to get labour for us, but were unsuccessful, owing to the coolies being afraid to return to work. One of those stevedores did provide us with the foremen required for superintending the loading of the s.s. *Carmarthenshire* and the discharging of the *Port Adelaide*, in spite of the threats reported to have been made by the striking coolies.

(3) We have no signed contract with these stevedores; we have a written understanding (unsigned by us) that the work for vessels con-

signed to our care shall be done at not exceeding certain rate. . . . Had the Government, before writing the letter referred to, asked for information on the subject they would have learnt that, as the captain of a steamer is directly responsible to his owner for the proper stowage and discharge of the cargo, in almost all cases the appointment of the stevedore is left to the master, and that the latter generally follows the advice of his agents in the election of a stevedore, the agents presumably having a better knowledge of the current charges and of the capabilities of the various stevedore firms.

(4.) Having no contracts we could not take legal steps to compel the stevedores to supply coolies to the vessels in port consigned to us.

So far from remaining passive and desiring to cast the entire responsibility of bringing matters to a satisfactory termination upon the Government, we, on the contrary, from the commencement of the Strike, endeavoured to ascertain through our Chinese connections what was the reason for the strike, and what action could be adopted to most speedily bring this to an end. . . . We ourselves are not shipowners, we act as agents only for various owners and hold from them authority to procure cargo and passengers for their vessels; we have no authority to enter into contracts on owners' behalf to import labour or to make any other arrangements to supply labour for their vessels.

In your letter you ask us for an expression of opinion, in so far as the contents of the Colonial Secretary's letter are applicable to our business. We are of opinion that the Colonial Secretary has been wrongly informed of the facts on which his letter of the 2nd April is based, and that it would have served public interests better had he taken the trouble to enquire of some of the principal shipping firms before publishing his letter.

It is not a fact that several firms have had offers from one or more Chinamen to supply them with 1,000 to 3,000 coolies at the usual stevedore rates, etc., etc., as stated in his paragraph 1.

And it is not a fact that such offers have in each case been declined, etc., etc., as per paragraph 2.

It is not a fact that in no instance does it appear that any of the firms, etc., etc., as per paragraph 4.

It is a fact that one of our large mail lines received an offer through a legal firm from a Chinaman to supply them with coolies for stevedore purposes on condition that a contract for from five to ten years should be made at the rates recently paid by that Company. This is the only offer of a bona fide nature which was made to any of the European firms, and it is not to be wondered at that the mail company in question did not accept this tender, seeing that the Chinaman was a total stranger to them, and that it was purely a matter of speculation whether he would be able to carry out the contract he was so anxious to secure. Amongst business people it is not considered advisable to make contracts with men one knows nothing about. The mail company in question could not be expected to handicap itself in its future business by taking the risk of accepting such an offer simply for the purpose of supporting the Government during the recent crisis.

The Government by their letter of the 2nd April appear to desire to throw the responsibility of the continuance of the strike upon the community, more especially the shipping community. It is admitted on all sides that the strike was not an ordinary labour strike, but was a protest on the part of the coolies against the recent legislation.

Under the circumstances stated above we think the recent crisis shows the absolute necessity for the Government being armed with sufficient powers to take exceptional action at such a time, and in addition to these powers we suggest that all guilds and Chinese societies shall be made to register, and to provide the Government with a record of the names of their officers and the doings of the society; also that all the books and papers of such guilds or secret societies be open for inspection by the Government whenever such a course may be desired.

You are at liberty, if you so desire, to forward this letter to the Colonial Secretary. . . .

—We are, dear sir, yours faithfully,

DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.

PRESENTATION TO MR. BRUCE SHEPHERD.

On Friday afternoon a number of the Chinese community assembled at the Man On Marine Insurance Office, Queen's Road West, to present an address to Mr. Bruce Shepherd on the eve of his departure from the colony on a visit to England. A drawing-room had been specially arranged for his reception, where he was received on his arrival at three o'clock. Mr. Chau Tseung Fat, Secretary of the Insurance Office, opened the proceedings by briefly addressing the assembly.

Mr. Li Hong Mi, who had been asked to make the presentation, said it was a very pleasant duty which the Chinese community had called upon him to perform that afternoon, namely, the presentation of an address and a few trivial articles to their friend in order to show their appreciation of him. (Applause). Mr. Shepherd was about to leave the colony for his native land on a well-earned holiday. Everyone wished him a pleasant voyage and a happy time, and it was also hoped that he would return greatly invigorated for his duties. The Chinese community could not allow him to leave the colony without showing some mark of respect and appreciation of the valuable services he had rendered to them.

The address was tastefully got up in white satin, and mounted on a frame. It read as follows:—

'To BRUCE SHEPHERD, Esquire.

We, the undersigned, beg to acknowledge the valuable services you have rendered to the public in this colony during the many years you have been in charge of the Land Office. We can testify that you have performed your duties with fidelity and unremitting attention, and that the public here are loud in their praises of your ability and faithfulness to duty. We appreciate you not only for your fidelity and integrity in the discharge of your duties as a public officer, but also for your truthfulness and sincere affection towards us as a friend. We have noted with great pleasure your amiability and meekness in your dealings with the public, which have been entirely free from all traits of false pride. We also note with equal gratification that, in all matters both public and private, you have been ever ready and cheerful in affording us advice, both in your capacities as a public officer and as a friend. Your candour and frankness have ensured for you the good will of both Europeans and Chinese, and all those who know you always feel happy to cultivate and strengthen your friendship. Now, as you are about to proceed to England with your family, we cannot but express our regret at not being able to detain you here any longer.

"With respect we beg to present you the accompanying chessboard and sets of chessmen and other trivial articles to mark our sincere wish for the long preservation of your health. These articles being very insignificant, we do not presume to call them presents worthy of your acceptance, but will designate them as pure tokens of the sincere affection we entertain towards you. Worthless as the articles are, we venture to request you to do us the honour of accepting them and preserving them as souvenirs.

"We avail ourselves of this opportunity to wish you and your family a pleasant, calm, and safe voyage, and sincerely hope that you may derive material benefit from your temporary cessation from work. May you soon be robust and strong again, in order that you may be able speedily to return to your duties here, so that we may again benefit by your advice, and be relieved from the anxiety which we shall undoubtedly suffer by your temporary absence.

WEI YUK LEUNG TSAU
KWAN HOI CHUNE FUNG WA CHUNE
MOK MAU CHUNG CHEUNG SAU
WONG CHUN PUN PONG
LI HONG MI HU SHUN CHUN
CHAU TSEUNG FAT and 52 others.

"Hongkong 13th April, 1895."

Mr. SHEPHERD, addressing Mr. Li Hong Mi and the gentlemen present, said he was very thankful for their kind address, but he did not think that he deserved it. He had been in this colony for the last twelve years, during which period he had always endeavoured to his utmost to facilitate all matters connected with the Land Office when he came in contact with both Europeans and the Chinese community. The Land Office is a very busy office, and if it had not been for the assistance of Mr. Wong Chun he did not

think that he could have carried out the business so thoroughly. He hoped that during his absence Mr. Wong Chun would perform the duties satisfactorily as he had hitherto. He hoped the business of the Man On Insurance Office would flourish in the future as it had in the past, and that all the gentlemen present might be equally prosperous in their respective businesses.

Mr. WEI YUK proposed the health of Mr. Shepherd, coupling with it the name of Mrs. Shepherd, and wished them both a pleasant voyage home.

This was responded to with great enthusiasm and the proceedings then terminated.

THE HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT FOR 1894.

The annual report of the Harbour Master was laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday. We make the following extracts:—

Harbour Department,

Hongkong, 11th February, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward the Annual Returns for this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1894.

SHIPPING.

2.—The total of arrivals and sailing amounted to 14,248,670 tons, or a decrease on 1893 of 100,452 tons. There were 31,470 arrivals with a tonnage of 7,123,748 tons, and 31,321 departures of 7,124,922 tons.

The decrease in tonnage in European constructed vessels is 66,677 tons, the numerical decrease is 306; and although 106 of these latter are British, still British shipping on the whole shows an actual increase of 46,201 tons, the increase in the size of ships as indicated last year having been continued.

The foreign junk trade shows a decrease of 1,336 vessels measuring 5,883 tons; here also an increase in individual bulk is indicated. If the decrease was fairly apportioned, tonnage to numbers, the decrease of 1,336 would average slightly over 4 tons apiece, whilst the 45,861 actually shown averages a trifle under 76 tons apiece. Similarly the decrease in the local junk trade (1,408 vessels measuring 27,892 tons) seems to indicate the retirement of the smaller craft, the decrease averaging slightly over 19 tons apiece, and the vessels engaged averaging over 25 tons apiece; presumably therefore increased size means increased economy even with Chinese craft.

JUNKS.

7.—Compared with the average of the past three years, the foreign junk trade shows an increase of 167,724 tons and a decrease of 69 vessels; the increased size of all the newer craft has already been noted. The local trade for the same period has decreased 187,774 tons with 4,966 vessels.

8.—The foreign junk trade for 1894 shows a decrease from the previous year of 1,336 vessels and 5,883 tons, doubtless more or less directly due to the plague.

9.—The decrease in the local trade for 1894 below 1893, of 1,408 vessels with 27,892 tons, is the result also of the plague, and partly of the decrease in work on the Praya Reclamation:

TRADE.

10.—4,132 steamers, 93 sailing vessels and 23,023 junks arrived during the year, giving a daily average of 75 vessels arriving as against 90 the previous year. For European constructed vessels the average daily entries would be 11.57 as against in 1893 11.97. Of the steamers 71.9 per cent. were British, and 33 were river craft, all of which latter were also British.

11.—The trade of the colony in 1894 was influenced by two special and memorable events, viz., the plague and the war.

It is difficult, if not impossible, yet to apportion the respective "spheres of influence" of these two events, for some time they ran concurrently, though perhaps with contrary results. There can, however, be no doubt as to which influence made itself most felt.

The port was proclaimed infected with bubonic plague on 10th May, and the shipping returns for that quarter showed a decrease in arrivals of 51 European vessels and 251 junks. It was not, however, until later that the full effect on shipping was made apparent, and the September quarter showed an additional falling off of 357 European vessels and 1,824 junks. During this quarter both influences were at work, and, until the 12th September, our shipping trade remained under a ban. With the raising of the "quar-

antise blockade," however, things began to improve, and at the end of December we had reduced our deficit in arrivals for the year to 306 European vessels and 1,336 junks.

12.—The river steamers, during the second half of the year, show a decrease of 27 entries aggregating 10,036 tons, owing in a great measure to the restriction on this branch of trade unavoidably made by the method adopted of examining all vessels, as far as practicable, arriving from the Canton River and its neighbourhood.

These river steamers, on the other hand, had the benefit of the general exodus of Chinese from Hongkong and their subsequent return, and though the passenger returns were not so good as in the previous year, they yet reached the very respectable total of 941,958 carried. Some of these vessels also minimised their losses by a special mode of retrenchment, as remarkable for its ingenuity as for the small result attained. The "night boats" (which are the only ones which pay light dues and that at very reduced rate) finding that they would not be permitted to enter the harbour until the passengers had been medically inspected, remained in Chinese waters until daylight absolved them by law from paying their small contribution to the revenue of the colony; the saving thus effected aggregated \$1,204.44. The report would not be complete without my mentioning that there was one "night boat" which did not adopt this plan and she was the Chinese owned *Tai On*.

13.—The following tables illustrate the result of the combined influences at work during the year.

(Here follow tables)

It will be seen from the second of these tables that 1894 opened very favourably, the first quarter showing a nett increase of 94 vessels of 114,149 tons, and thus that, at one time, there might have been expected an increase over last year of three quarters of a million of tons in European constructed vessels, which would almost certainly have brought in its train a corresponding increase in the junk trade. Unfortunately, from causes already referred to, this expectation was not realized.

Imports were 2,625,610 tons, made up as follows:—

Beans	3,995
Bones	2,040
Coals	562,909
Copra	10
Flour	60,250
Kerosine	100,367
Oil	3,804
Opium	2,825
Rattan	625
Rice	619,075
Saltpetre	50
Sandalwood	1,625
Sapanwood	1,300
Sugar	170,499
Tea	350
Timber	16,040
Vermeoilli	170

General.....1,545,934
.....1,079,666

Transit.....2,625,610
.....1,469,844

Total.....4,095,454

Compared with last year this gives 132 ships less, measuring 61,073 tons carrying 42,280 tons more.

14.—Following up the attempt which was made in my last report to gauge the trade of the colony by means of Import and Export Returns, I am enabled by means of somewhat elaborate statistics, compiled by the Assistant Harbour Master, to give more complete returns for 1894. As before stated these do not profess absolute correctness, and they are obtained through the courtesy of the agents and masters.

In Returns Nos. I and II, and V. and VI. will be found, in addition to the customary information as to registered tonnage, &c., the amount of cargo reported as "shipped," "discharged," and "in transit" to and from each country with which trade relations exist, and I hope that the information will be valued in proportion to the amount of time and trouble expended in its compilation.

During the year 8,452 European constructed vessels aggregating 10,469,182 tons carried

1,384,706 passengers and 6,168,172 tons, the latter made up as follows:—

Import cargo	2,746,385 tons.
Export	1,598,588 "
Transit	1,469,844 "
Bunker coal shipped	353,455 "

Total

IMPORTS (EXCLUDING RIVER TRADE).
Steamers2,767 measur. 3,491,518 tons.
Sailing vessels 93 " 104,486 "

Total 2,860 " 3,596,004 "

EXPORTS (EXCLUDING RIVER TRADE).
Steamers2,769 measur. 3,494,360 tons.
Sailing vessels 94 " 104,491 "

Total2,863 3,598,851 "

exported 1,504,810 tons of cargo, amongst which were 16,743 tons of kerosine and 2,583 tons of opium. These 2,769 steamers shipped also 333,251 tons of bunker coal. Compared with last year this gives 137 ships less, measuring 64,825 less carrying 19,655 tons more, and shipping 53,350 tons less of bunker coal.

European vessels imported 1,147,697 tons in excess of exports. Junks exported an excess of 381,604 tons, thus the total excess of imports is reduced to 766,093 tons. From this must be deducted 353,455 tons of bunker coal shipped—exclusive of that supplied to Her Majesty's ships and foreign men-of-war—leaving a balance of 412,638 tons consumed, manufactured, and in stock in the colony or unaccounted for.

15.—2,729 river steamers, measuring 3,275,327 tons, imported 120,675 tons of cargo, exported 93,778 tons, shipped 20,204 tons of bunker coal, and conveyed 1,041,958 passengers, i. e. imported less than last year 21,241 tons, exported 34,709 tons less, and carried fewer passengers by 135,673. Junks in local trade arriving carried... 6,064
Junks in local trade departing carried... 4,829

10,893

Launches in waters of colony arriving carried

Launches in waters of colony departing carried

Total local arrivals.....1,975,371

Total departures.....1,935,426

16.—Junks in local trade discharged, in various parts of the colony, 90,964 tons, of which 82,443 were earth and stones, clearing from Victoria with 9,597 tons of general cargo, of which 987 tons were earth and stones.

17.—PASSENGER TRAFFIC, 1894.
British vessels arriving carried 130,767
British vessels departing (excluding Chinese passenger ships) carried..... 80,891
British vessels 96 Chinese passenger ships carried 37,222

Foreign vessels arriving carried 248,800

Foreign vessels departing (excluding Chinese passenger ships) carried 51,544

Foreign vessels 34 Chinese passenger ships carried 30,523

Foreign vessels 34 Chinese passenger ships carried 11,801

Foreign vessels arriving carried 93,868

River steamers arriving carried 416,176

River steamers departing carried 525,782

.....941,958

Macao launches arriving carried 12,524

Macao launches departing carried 13,126

.....25,650

Launches other places arriving carried... 198,209

Launches other places departing carried 203,885

.....402,114

Junks in foreign trade arriving carried 108,387

Junks in foreign trade departing carried 112,561

.....220,948

Total arrivals 917,627

Total departures 966,768

.....1,884,395

Total emigrants 49,023

1,933,418

Grand total arrivals 2,892,998

Grand total departures, including emigrants 2,951,217

.....5,844,215

Difference 58,219

REVENUE.

18.—The total revenue collected by the Harbour Department during the year was \$195,175.62, a decrease of \$645.40 on the previous year. Compared with the average of the last five years it shows an increase of \$39,086.41. The details are as follows:—

(i.) Light Dues 92,909.31

(ii.) Licences and Internal Revenue... 29,418.30

(iii.) Fees of Court and Office 72,848.01

\$195,175.62

STEAM LAUNCHES.

19.—On the 31st December there were 131 steam launches employed in the harbour, of these 60 were licensed for the conveyance of passengers, 55 were privately owned, 11 were the property of the Colonial Government, also a floating fire engine, and 5 belonged to the Imperial Government in charge of the military authorities.

All these launches, except those which belonged to Her Majesty or any Foreign Government, are required to have a certificated master and engineer, whose certificates are liable to suspension or cancellation should they prove negligent or incompetent. During the year one master was reprimanded and cautioned. The generally seamanlike manner in which these launches are handled deserves a word of commendation. I regret to say they don't always observe the "rule of the road"; but this very fact, taken together with their absence from accident, to a great extent points towards good judgment, and "results" are, after all, not an unfair criterion.

EMIGRATION.

20.—There has been, as might be expected, a great falling off in emigration. For the three months June, July, and August emigration was practically stayed, the last three months of the year, however, made some amends, and finally the numbers amounted to 49,023 as against 82,336 in 1893, a decrease of 33,313; but it was not much under 1892, and it was better than the three years immediately preceding that one.

During the year 451 ships reported having brought to Hongkong 96,095 Chinese passengers from various places to which they had emigrated.

LIGHTHOUSES.

35.—Under this heading I desire to make a few remarks, the gist of which have already been put forward by me in previous reports.

The subject of the tax on shipping is one that, I think, deserves attention. In my opinion the present tax of "light dues" is an "ill-conditioned" one, and an even larger amount of revenue than at present could be collected on a more equitable basis.

The principle advocated by me presents itself more and more forcibly as exchange gets lower and lower, and it means the amelioration of "local traders."

At present all European vessels, excepting river steamers, pay a tax of 2½ cents a ton, which tax is called "light dues." The revenue derived from this tax is one of the important items of the income of the colony. It is larger than its name implies, and, "extraordinary works" excepted, it is considerably in excess of what is required for the maintenance of the lighthouses for which the colony is responsible.

A larger revenue, for general purposes, might be raised, and at the same time a, to my mind, more equitable tax levied, by the substitution of a periodical payment, based, as light dues are, on "tonnage," but on an entirely different principle.

At the present time the local traders, whose earnings are in local currency, whose shares are held locally, and most of whom purchase their stores and supplies in the colony, are on the same currency footing as the "trunk liners," some of whom lie here for lengthened periods paying "per entry" the same as the local traders, while the bulk of their earnings are in gold, their stores purchased in Europe or America, and probably, most important consideration of all, whose owners or shareholders are not concerned with the prosperity of the trade of Hongkong beyond the extent to which for the time being it offers them a remunerative field as carriers.

"Comparisons are odious," but for purposes

of illustration are nevertheless at times necessary. I hope, therefore, I will be excused for making use of them in the present case.

A P. & O. mail steamer enters this port and pays 2½ cents a ton for that one entry; she proceeds to Shanghai and pays 66 cents a ton, this would clear her for four months in all Chinese treaty ports, but, as she does not go to these, it practically amounts to her entry at Shanghai, and she can only return once during the four months for which the "chop" holds good.

A Canadian Pacific Railway steamer enters Shanghai, pays 66 cents a ton for a few hours, and proceeding to Hongkong lies here three weeks at a cost of 2½ cents a ton. The entry at Shanghai on the return voyage reduces the cost of the "Grand Chop" to 33 cents, but only by making two complete trips in four months can she reduce her payment to China to about 30 per cent. more than for those trips she has paid in this British port.

So much for the "trunk liners."

On the other hand, a "Douglas" or "Indo-China" steamer enters, pays the same 2½ cents a ton, remains here for 12 or 24 hours, and returning again in three days from Canton or the Coast has to again pay light dues.

A quarterly or half-yearly port tax seems, therefore, to be the fairest. Vessels could then go in and out continually, availing themselves of the lights, or lie in harbour occupying space, as may seem best for the peculiar circumstances of each branch of trade. But, of course, that tax could not remain at 2½ cents a ton.

Then again as to the present dues paid by river steamers. Twenty years ago, or thereabouts when light dues were first imposed on European shipping (junks had contributed to the revenue for eight years previous to this), these river steamers were given exceptional rates in order to foster a particular trade. That trade has now arrived at a position quite capable of paying a fair share of the expenses of a Government under the ægis of which it was created.

At the present rate of light dues these vessels, under the special privilege of paying only one-third of the fixed rate, and that only for those of them which arrive at night (all the other being free of the port), paid last year \$3,506 for a total tonnage arriving, amounting to considerably over a million and a half of tons, or at the rate of less than ¼ of a cent per ton, and side by side with this they have been paying, if my information is correct, about \$17,000 at Canton for the same period.

They thus contribute to the Chinese revenue about five times more than to the revenue of the colony whose flag they fly and the protection of whose laws they crave.

I am not advocating the cause of the Chinese methods of obtaining revenue, I merely wish to illustrate to those who are accustomed to hear a sort of "commination service" read, having the "freedom of the port" for its theme, how very mild our methods are in Hongkong.

36.—The lighthouses were maintained as usual during the year. The new lenses for Gap Rock, to replace those injured by the typhoon in October 1893, arrived from England and light was restored to its original condition of efficiency in May.

37.—Telegraphic and telephonic communication, with some few breaks, has also been kept up with the Gap Rock and Cape D'Aguilar during the year. From the former station, 373 vessels have been reported as passing, and in addition 233 messages were received and 1,615 sent, including the daily weather report for the Observatory.

From Cape D'Aguilar 983 vessels were reported, and in addition 31 messages were sent and 106 received.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Wages unchanged in the East: wages doubled in the West: such in brief is the sum and substance of gold monometallism. And yet there are people in the East who worry themselves to find arguments sufficiently powerful to convince people in the West that the only salvation of Western industries is bimetallicism, not bimetallicism at anything like the present ratio but bimetallicism at some very much higher ratio just as if the fact of wages being doubled in the West were not the most convincing argument which could be employed to indicate the direction capital will take. Capital and labour, duality

in unity, unity in duality, for capital is but stored up labour, and if it can purchase twice as much in the East as it can in the West, to the East it will go, sooner or later. Yet the West has reason in declining to accept silver, when the fortunate accident of having gone gold has doubled the value of its gold investments. What to the West is impoverishment of landlords? It means but the submergence of a class who had their day in the good old times of corn laws and railway manias. There are so many wealthy people in England now, wealthy from the double returns coming in from gold lodged abroad, that they can afford to buy up these impoverished landlords as they drop out of the running, without pausing to count the cost. What to them are low prices for farm produce, what to them an exodus of farm labourers to the cities? Nothing but more land for game preserves, fewer wire fences to impede hunting, abandonment of the dales and glades of England to the Hebrew and the money lender. It would be more to the point were they to wake up some day and find a sixpenny loaf costing a shilling, milk three pence a pint advanced to sixpence, and butter a shilling a pound before unobtainable except for two shillings. Would there not be complaints from the charitable, would not philanthropy run mad bawling the lot of the poor (the poor capitalist!) under such altered conditions? The West can still point to no diminution of chimneys smoking in the manufacturing districts, to no reduction in the weekly wage of operatives, now worth all the more owing to the low price of provisions, and can also advance this great test point, that the earnings of work people, the earnings of railways, and therefore the visible earnings of commerce, show no shrinkage. Why, then, should the West submit to the dictation of bimetallicists that everything will be ruined unless it decides to exchange gold for silver at very much above what silver sells for? There has been no struggle yet between capital and labour, no great nor general labour war, why then should the West anticipate an evil day and provide against what may never occur? If people in the West choose that agriculture should be secondary to game preserving, why should people in the East trouble themselves about it? If people in the East say the manufacturing industries of the West are being slowly transferred to the East, surely that will be good for the East and is no more than should be expected, hoped for, looked for, from the well known energy and enterprise of Englishmen who seek fortune abroad. But when the East speaks of the manufacturing industries of the West being ruined by Eastern competition, the East knows not what it is talking about, and whole factories continue to smoke and workpeople do full time and draw full wages the people of the West will be governed by hard facts before their eyes rather than by fancies which originate in the East. And yet with every respect for the opinion of the West, the people of the West do close their eyes to what must come to pass if there is any truth in the sentence which heads this paper—wages unchanged in the East, wages doubled in the West. The inefficiency of labour in the East compared with labour in the West may be sevenfold. Given the appliances of the East it might be, and where those appliances have been turned to manufacture it is very much less, but on the broad ground of wages, labour costs one seventh less in the East than it does in the West. If labour in the West through appreciation of gold has advanced one hundred per cent., the East should now command fourteen fold the labour of the West, and it does, for whereas before the East could buy only 4 ounces of silver, or 10½ rupees, or 4½ dollars, for a sovereign, it can now buy 9 ounces of silver, or as much as is contained in 24 rupees or in 10½ dollars. Twenty years ago the wage maker in the West got 1,600 grains of silver for his sovereign and the wage maker in the East got 1,650 grains for his. Twenty years later the wage maker in the East gets 3,300 grains of silver in current rupees or 4,000 grains of silver in dollars for his sovereign, while the wage maker of the West gets, as before, only 1,600 grains for his. And the West believes or professes to believe that its 1,600 grains of silver are and will continue to be as effective as the 3,300 and 4,000 grains of silver in the East. Therein lies the mistake of the West. If there was no silver coin in the West, if all payments were made in gold, a gold bit might be effective. But inasmuch as gold is rarely employed in paying wages and is not use-

ful in the every day transactions of the wage earner's life, the 80 grains of silver, or a shilling, which are given in lieu of a gold bit are not effective, as may readily be seen in America, which is being depleted of gold through the efforts of government to maintain a par between their gold and silver coins. If England were a debtor nation the same thing would speedily occur there, but being a creditor nation the divergence between gold and silver must operate in some other way, and that way must be by return to a wage basis the equivalent of twenty years ago, which means lopping off one half the operative's present earnings. It is difficult to bring such a large issue forcibly to the minds of those not directly interested. There is a population of some 40 millions in the United Kingdom of which half may be women. Of the males there are old and young non-workers, the army and navy and those connected with the government service, the upper ten and the leisured class, so that of the males there may not be 10 million workers. How many of these are wage makers, how many agriculturalists, how many operatives, how many unproductive workers, how they are divided I confess I do not know, but still it is necessary to form some idea of numbers to understand how many are likely to be hit by the fall in silver and how many there are who cannot see any evil in it because their pockets have not yet been touched. To divide the 10 millions up some way, suppose one million to be wage makers, two millions to be non-producers, three millions to be operatives, and four millions to be agriculturalists. To take the last class first, there must be grave doubt whether they know anything about silver. Competition by farm produce from abroad they understand, cheap bread stuffs from America, Russia, India, cheap beef and mutton, butter and cheese from America, Australia, Holland, cheap milk and eggs from the Continent, but why those things should be cheap and declining in value they do not stay to reason out. Moreover, have they cause to reason it out, has the wage of the agricultural labourer been touched by decline in agricultural produce? I think not. The outcry for a number of years was that the agricultural labourer was underpaid and the trend of public opinion has been to feed him better, house him better, and educate him better, not to cut down his wages. While those wages are untouched he may grumble at hard times, but it would be difficult to make him understand what a fall in silver had to do with them. He could much more readily understand how tithes, taxes, and landlords could raise or lower his earnings, than he could see where cheap silver came in to interfere with them. Next, as to operatives, the case is much the same. There has been no strike, no lockout in consequence of decline in silver. Strikes and lockouts there are and have been, but none which can be immediately traced to silver, and while work and pay keep up to the average, an artisan may take a curious but cannot be expected to take any very lively interest in a question which has not brought about any decrease in his wages, but which has very greatly increased the return he obtains for them. He might on the contrary become a lively opponent of any solution of the silver question if he mastered the fact that advance in silver would cause his bread and butter, beef and beer, to be dearer, while there would be no corresponding increase in wages. As to non-producing workers, their wages are probably governed by the spending power of other wage earners, and while full wages prevail in other trades and expenditure is not curtailed, there is no reason to suppose that decline in silver affects them. We have thus out of the whole population of the United Kingdom perhaps not more than a million people who are really in touch with silver and these million people are agricultural and manufacturing wage makers. There have been great strides of late years in labour saving appliances, both agricultural and manufacturing; indeed, had there not agriculturalists and manufacturers would long ago have been wiped out; but still, whatever improvements have been effected they are insufficient in themselves to compensate for the double wages of labour in the West compared with what labour commands in the East. Changes cannot be too often rung upon this one fact, that there has yet been no decline in wages in England and until that decline sets in people in England will not realize what decline in silver means. Tell the average Englishman that during the past

twenty years a great cotton spinning and weaving industry has grown up in India and during the next twenty years a similar great industry will in all likelihood arise in China to the ruination of English spinning and weaving, and he will probably laugh, while asking what factory fire in England has been put out by Bombay factories. And in a sense he is right, for the Indian mills have not caused English mills to become less numerous; they have only prevented English mills becoming more numerous. If they have caused a change in fashion at the English mills it is nothing; indeed if English mills did not adapt themselves to circumstances and stop making articles which became unproductive they could not exist. And the average Englishman will probably think they will continue to do so even should factories spread to China. England is different to any other land. It is for the rich man a beautiful country to live in; there is no other country in the world to compare with it, unless perhaps Japan, and there are many rich men in England. During the twenty years succeeding the American and Australian gold discoveries of 1843-1850 some 580 millions sterling of gold poured into England. Where are those 580 millions now. They are not in England; authorities say there are not more than 80 millions in England; therefore the odd 500 millions have gone abroad in loans to other countries, and so long as those countries acknowledge their indebtedness and continue to pay interest on the money borrowed, it means an annual return to England in food and material (at 3 per cent.) of 15 millions sterling. But the 500 millions during the time they halted in England were converted over and over again into coal and iron and tin, factories and foundries, ships and railways, and the profits upon these in the shape of exported articles have also gone abroad for investment. I have no clear idea of the amount of capital England has lodged abroad, but I have seen it stated that the annual savings of England are 200 millions sterling, which (at 5 per cent.) would represent a capital of four thousand millions. Thus it is that the rich man can hold land in England and laugh at agricultural depression, but the farmer who has to fight for his living cannot so regard decline in the value of agricultural produce. If he could pay his labourers half wages it would be different, but he cannot, for decline in silver has not penetrated below the crust and has not yet reached the labourer's wage. The consequence is that farms, unless favourably situated near towns, must in the end be abandoned, which to the capitalist is nothing, since he points to capital lodged abroad bringing in double returns, twice as much corn and oil and wine as before, for whereas seven men previously worked for him in the East, now gold converted into silver procures the labour of fourteen men. While land can be held for pleasure in England, it is not so held in America, and in that country a different view is taken of the silver question than rich Englishmen can be expected to hold. The American sees that to compete against the East he must work twice as hard and produce twice as much as before, and as there is a limit to human endurance, he finds that impossible, so his cry is, put the labour of the East back to where it was 20 years ago, turn on seven Easterns against one Western and their laziness and our activity are on a par, but turn on fourteen Easterns and our stamina is not sufficient to resist the strain. The American fights for his own hand, off his own land; the Englishman does not. He, or at least all but the very small proportion of wage makers, works for wages and so long as decline in silver does not touch them, cheap commodities are an unmixed blessing. While gold wages are untouched in gold countries the lot of the labourer is a happy one, but inasmuch as decline in silver requires from silver countries double the amount of produce previously called for to liquidate their indebtedness, the lot of producers and labourers in the East cannot be an improving one, since they have to work double time to produce the double amount they are required to pay. Of course this is fiction, because they really do not and could not work twenty hours nor even sixteen hours a day. The very indebtedness of silver countries means so much gained in labour saving appliances, which themselves double the productiveness of labour. These appliances may be railways, roads, tanks, canals, or anything from a steam plough to a field hoe. Loans were not made in gold nor in silver; they were made in the

products of labour and those additions to the productiveness of labour now enable silver countries to meet the doubled demand made upon them in liquidation of their indebtedness on former gold borrowings. But the position of the labourer is not ameliorated nor is he any better off while one half his labour, which should be his own, is taken by his gold creditors. The help silver countries require to consume more of the products of the West is return to the old price of silver, by which their indebtedness, or the produce of labour they must export, would be reduced one half. As things now stand silver countries have to seek ways and means for lessening the outflow to gold countries, which take more and more produce year by year as interest on the labour saving appliances previously lent, while produce has also to be sent out in exchange for manufactures which are still imported. If they must send produce West as interest on these gold loans, they can at least lessen the drain on it by becoming manufacturers themselves and ceasing to take some portion of the manufactures of the West. Then there may be hope for amelioration in the lot of the Eastern labourer and producer. Half the product of his labour must go abroad in payment of debts, but the other half, previously exported in exchange for manufactures, will be retained in the country and exchanged against country made cloths. When all Eastern countries can thus do without necessities from England and will take only luxuries, what will be the position of work people in England? At present they are in clover, because their wages are not cut down and the double quantity of produce silver countries send as interest on their debt causes food to be cheap. When silver countries become manufacturers and require to pay gold countries only half the produce they are now shipping, food and material in gold countries will become dearer, and when silver countries no longer import necessities there will not be sufficient work in gold countries for operatives, who will have to emigrate, cultivate the land, or starve. A shuffling of the cards is now going on and it depends upon how they are dealt whether the East is to remain agricultural or become manufacturing, whether the West is to lose population or retain it. From the point of view of civilization nothing could be happier than the hardship low silver imposes upon the East, because it impels it to fight against that hardship and redress it, and the only way to redress it is by borrowing labour saving appliances, setting up its own industries, and by ceasing to be a customer cause the industries of the West to decay. England, chiefly and other European countries, to a minor degree have laid a tax upon silver countries, as they have laid taxes upon gold countries. The East has not yet talked of repudiation; other countries have, and scaling down interest upon debts is now a familiar process to European capitalists, who do not see or will not realize that this is owing to decline in silver, to the double quantity of commodities extracted as interest upon debts, which the East pays, but the other countries cannot or do not. Capitalists do see an enormous accumulation of gold at gold centres and they do feel the weight of it, from the decline in interest which it occasions, and none know what to do with their gold. They fear to lend it to gold countries, because if these promise to pay three per cent. interest now, a few years hence may find them cutting it down to one per cent. They fear to lend it to silver countries, because they do not know where silver is going. They fear to lend it to manufacturers, because they know not how long factories and foundries will survive in England. As to land—well, land in England is for luxury, not returns, and as to land in other countries they have only to look at the ruin of the farmer in America, owing to the burden of double quantities of produce remitted from the East. Thus the whole world is troubled by the selfishness of one nation, which, because things with it are well to-day shuts its eyes to what may happen to-morrow. The British Empire must of course decay, as did the Roman Empire before it, and what caused collapse of the Roman Empire—unwise currency legislation which imposed excessive hardship upon its tributaries—may also hasten the decay of the British Empire by lopping off its branches and leaving England to become a nice, quiet, pastoral little island, or, its population gone, a game preserve for its gold capitalist conquerors. Meanwhile it is certain that low silver must

divert the energy of the West towards the East and in that sense it is an unmixed blessing for the East. Why Europeans in the East should be concerned at the monetary shortsightedness of the West can only be explained on one ground, that they are Europeans first and Eastern traders afterwards. Cheap silver must impel the East forwards by causing its people to labour, either from necessity or desire; dear silver might throw it back; it is not easy to say it would, because a parity between gold and silver might restore confidence to Western capitalists and cause them to transfer their now useless hoards to the East, which again would create industry. But whichever way we look at the question it is a difficult one to solve and one cannot wonder at the West hesitating to change its present policy before being driven to it by a labour crisis. That it will be driven there can be little doubt, because gold capital is becoming absolutely valueless. Just now money is worth one per cent. If things are allowed to drift people will soon have to pay bankers for taking care of their gold, and then, when no interest is obtainable upon money, capitalists may wake up and bring pressure to bear upon governments. If things go on as they are the time must come when operatives' wages, the one strong rallying point for British statesmanship, will decline. Whether agriculture can be more adversely affected than it is now may be questioned, but the smash is only being staved off because the capital employed in it is not yet all exhausted. At best it is only a question of a few years for gold to be unproductive, operatives' wages much lower, perhaps active strife between capital and labour, and agriculture completely wrecked. Statesmen may allow things to run their course or they may not, for the only thing to be said against a ratio between gold and silver is that it would raise the price of food without raising the price of labour and so perhaps cause discontent amongst wage earners. A side issue is, possible revival in silver mining and so again flooding the world with silver. Gold countries look to that remedying itself by diminution in the production of silver and consequent advance in its price, but a lessened output of silver would be as great an evil to one half the world as a lessened output of gold to the other half, because it would bring about a similar decline in prices in the East to that which followed the scramble for gold in the West. Country after country going gold and rejecting silver has brought on the present deadlock and it is interesting to notice how. There are nominally about 400 millions sterling each of coined gold and silver in the world or together 800 millions. Rob the 400 millions silver of half its value and gold and silver together become 600 millions, which alone is sufficient to cause prices to be twenty-five per cent. lower than twenty years ago; restore silver and prices should advance thirty-three per cent. from their present level, and that is where the pinch comes. So long as gold produces interest, the cheaper commodities are the better it is for gold capitalists, as it leaves them more to spend. They might put up with high prices when they find they cannot get interest upon gold without them and therefore the only way to convince gold England that bimetallicism would be to her advantage is to rob gold of its value as an interest producing commodity. Unfortunately, however, English gold is but stored up labour, and when lenders are willing there are generally borrowers in order to set labour at work elsewhere. England has the ball at her foot; she only waits to set it rolling until decay in her manufacturing industries compels her to do so, and it may then be too late. Figures sometimes force attention although not always interesting, but the position of the British manufacturer now and twenty years ago can scarcely be made plain without them. Twenty years ago the cost of material in the East was 50 cents, the cost of production 50 cents, together one dollar. In England the cost of material was two shillings, the cost of production two shillings, together four shillings, or one dollar. England may have had some slight advantage, but it is immaterial for the purpose of illustration. Twenty years later, or to-day, the cost of material in the East is still 50 cents, the cost of production still 50 cents, together one dollar, but look at the position of England. Material has declined 50 per cent., labour is the same, and the finished article costs three shillings against four shillings twenty years ago, but transferred to the East it

costs, owing to the fall in silver, one dollar and a half against the stationary one dollar of the East. How then can the West compete on the old price of labour? Only by continued improvements in machinery and continued cheapening in the cost of transport, to both of which there is a limit. Reverse present sterling costs at the old price of silver and it gives seventy-five cents against the stationary dollar of the East, and we at once see the immense margin for profit there would be to the West were silver rehabilitated. Or take the case of coal. Twenty years ago it cost ten shillings, all in labour, transport thirty shillings, together forty shillings, or ten dollars. Twenty years later, or to-day, the cost is still ten shillings, but transport is reduced to fifteen shillings, together twenty-five shillings. But exchange has also fallen 50 per cent and twenty-five shillings to-day costs twelve and a half dollars against the ten dollar cost of twenty years ago. Reverse to-day's sterling cost at the exchange of twenty years ago and coal would lay down at six dollars and a quarter. Cardiff coal is at least 50 per cent. better than Japan coal which sells for six dollars; therefore a ton and a half of Japan coal would not be worth more than one of Cardiff, or would have to sell for four dollars and a bit per ton on foreign markets, at which rate coal mining in Japan would very soon be limited to the necessities of the country and its export decay. What England needs is a short and simple way of becoming bimetallic without disturbing the currency or frightening the nation by the use of terms it does not understand and what is more does not seem to wish to understand. The present currency law is that one Troy pound weight of gold 913½ fine shall be coined into 1,869 sovereigns, which gives 113,0016 grains of fine gold to each sovereign. One Troy pound weight of silver 925 fine shall be coined into 66 shillings, which gives 80,7273 grains of fine silver to each shilling. The ratio in England between gold and silver is thus 1 gold to 14,2878 silver, from which it may be seen that with silver at 30 pence per ounce the British Mint makes a profit of nearly fifty-four per cent. upon its silver coinage, while offering that premium upon coins "made in Germany" or to coiners who will risk the pains and penalties attaching to the unauthorized issue of silver pieces. To amend the law it would only be necessary for some bimetallic statesman to move and carry that one Troy pound weight of silver 925 fine shall be coined into forty-four shillings and gold and silver coins be made unlimited legal tender. It might cost England ten millions sterling to convert its present silver coinage, which, with loss of profit to the British Mint, would fall on the nation generally and is otherwise too small an item to be considered in a Budget which runs into a hundred millions sterling. The effect would be to raise the price of silver all over the world to 44 pence, the rupee to one and fourpence halfpenny, which is what Indian statesmen require to place the finances of India upon a satisfactory basis, and the dollar to a trifle over three shillings. England is rich and powerful enough to effect such conversion unaided and by doing so would force bimetallicism at 28½ silver to 1 gold upon all Western nations, not one of whom would ever think of making England a "dumping" ground for silver coined at 16 or 15½ to 1. Such a step would not or should not offend the gold party in England, as England is not a borrowing nation but a lending one, and borrowers who came to England for a loan would be paid either in gold or silver, that is theoretically, for as a matter of fact the country which loans seldom pays in coin, but in commodities, and therefore a loan means an increase in the lending nation's trade. If with gold and silver equally legal tender in England borrowers did not want silver but wanted gold, the gold hunger can always be satisfied with an "agio," often imposed even when the Latin Union was effective, and borrowers would have to pay such premium for gold as the market demanded, which indeed would be but just, for when the time came for redeeming the loan they would pay it off in silver or in gold, as might be convenient. The fact of rupees being legal tender in England would not drain one coin from India, because India is a silver consuming country, not an exporter of silver, and if it wanted gold could obtain it, as it does now, by exporting produce. There are in the British Empire two coins of nearly equal silver contents, one

a rupee, the other a florin, which twenty years ago alike exchanged for a sovereign. In the West the florin is still a measure of ten for labourers to fill up, in the East the rupee has become a measure of twenty, which shows how much lighter is labour in the West, or how much better it is remunerated. The West does not alter its own measure for labour, it imposes a double measure for labour upon a debt enslaved East, while an unencumbered East benefits by what is practically a heavy bounty on its industry. To make the florin and the rupee equally a measure of fourteen and a half would mean more work, or less pay for labourers in the West, but it would relieve the debt enslaved East and rob the unencumbered East of its present advantage.

THE YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of this Association was held at the head office, Shanghai, on the 8th instant. Mr. James M. Young presided.

The CHAIRMAN said—Before proceeding with the formal business of the meeting I have the pleasure of bidding you welcome to these our new premises, which your directors deemed it desirable to secure when they had the opportunity, as being more suitable and convenient to our constituents than our former offices and very little more expensive. I regret very much the absence from the Board to-day of Mr. Such, our Deputy Chairman, owing to illness, from which, however, I am pleased to say he is making satisfactory recovery. The minutes of the last annual ordinary general meeting, held on the 18th April last, are on the table, but having been printed and circulated will, as usual, be taken as read. The report and accounts to the 31st December, 1894, have been in your hands for some time and will also, with your permission, be taken as read. The result of the year's working and the position of the affairs of the Association are so clearly shown that I need take up very little time in making the few explanatory remarks that suggest themselves. Your Directors are very pleased to point out the increased amount of premium earned, viz., \$401,621.45 against \$323,011.96 in 1893, without any material increase in the fixed charges, as indicating a prosperous state of the Company's business. The percentage of expenses to premium is 18.63 per cent. as against 20.26 per cent. for 1893. Another very satisfactory feature has been the larger business from shareholders, which your directors trust will continue to grow. The London agency, working on the conservative lines laid down some years ago, has continued satisfactory; and the agencies at other places have had the attention of the Board, with the object of securing an extension of profitable business. The amount of claims paid, viz., \$47,266.26 with \$115,000 more estimated, to cover all claims from known losses and casualties shows that we have had exceptionally good fortune so far, which we trust will likewise attend the running off of all unexpired risks. It will be noticed that the balance at credit of exchange and investment fluctuation account is \$62,300.30, against \$16,131.11, with which it was opened last year. The increase is owing to the appreciation in value of some Association investments less the depreciation in value of others, according to valuations of the 31st December, 1894, and also to the enhanced dollar value of our sterling investments. It represents, however, as explained at the last meeting, a book profit only. Your directors are well satisfied that all the Association's assets are fully worth the amounts they represent in the balance sheet, and they trust you will approve of these appropriations, as recommended in the report, of the balances of the working accounts for 1893 and former years as well as of that for 1894. In view of the increased business and the further gradual development they look for, your directors feel it of vital importance to keep adding to the reserve fund as circumstances permit. Of the amounts due by agencies, premium in course of collection and other outstandings amounting on the 31st December to \$108,827.63, about \$85,000 have since been received, leaving some \$23,000 in course of collection. In common with most commercial institutions your Association has suffered to some extent from the war and the consequent interruption of trade, though on the other hand insurances against war risk have helped to make up for the falling off in ordinary business. This

remark applies also to the first three months of the present year. Let us hope that the war will soon be over, to be followed by a period of prosperity and expansion in trade throughout this part of the world. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to ask. (Applause)

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed, Mr. B. A. CLARKE seconded, and it was agreed, that the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1894, as presented, be accepted and passed.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, Mr. E. B. SKOTTOWE seconded, and it was agreed, that a dividend of 15 per cent., being \$9 per share on the paid-up capital, be declared (viz., a special dividend of 5 per cent on former years' account and a dividend of 10 per cent. on 1894 account) payable on the 9th inst. at the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, or the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to shareholders of record on the 28th March, 1895.

Mr. P. BRUNAT proposed, Mr. CAMPBELL seconded, and it was resolved, that Messrs. J. M. Young, H. J. Such, B. A. Clarke, E. B. Skottowe, and J. S. Fearon be elected directors to serve until the next ordinary general meeting of shareholders.

Mr. GALLES proposed and Mr. M. WOLFF seconded that Mr. Augustus White be re-elected auditor, to serve until the next ordinary general meeting of shareholders.

This was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting.

Mr. R. M. CAMPBELL—I think we ought not to leave the room, gentlemen, without expressing our cordial thanks for the conspicuous ability with which the Chairman has explained to us, and the directors, throughout the year have carried out, the business of this Association. I have no doubt also that the Board will wish us to include in our thanks our Secretary, Mr. Jackson. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN—On behalf of my co-directors and myself I am very much obliged for your vote of thanks. With regard to the Secretary and staff it affords me the very greatest pleasure to bear testimony again to the highly satisfactory manner in which their business has been conducted. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. S. JACKSON—On behalf of the staff and myself I beg to thank you for your vote of thanks.

The proceedings then terminated.—N. C. Daily News.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF FORMOSA AND BRITISH TRADE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Anticipating the usual pangs in the press on the great forbearance of the Japanese in not attacking treaty ports, I, as an old resident of Southern China, would venture to point out that by their occupation of the Pescadores the Japanese have completely paralyzed British trade in the five Treaty ports of Formosa and Fokien, and that this fact is gloried in by the native press in Japan, and even her semi-official organs do not hesitate to point out that if only the occupation of Formosa can be attained, a blow can be struck at the trade of Hongkong which will eliminate it so far as its export coast trade is concerned, while from a strategic point of view the occupation of the Pescadores—the Gibraltar of the China Seas—will be a constant menace to Hongkong itself, and will serve to maintain an influence on the China coast from Foochow to Canton that will entirely counteract British influence and so harass our trade one way and another that it will be both unsafe and unprofitable for the English merchant to remain out here.

So far, even those most interested in coast trade from Hongkong have apparently received with calmness the fact of having the Japanese at their doors. We, who have spent our lives in developing the trade of Formosa, feel acutely that we have apparently only done so for the benefit of a country whose every aspiration is inimical to the interests of the land of

our birth, and whose subjects, according to the last Anglo-Japanese treaty, in four years time we must virtually become. I presume all Hongkong is aware that the Japanese intention as far as Formosa is concerned is to make a preferential coast trade between the island and Japan, thus practically eliminating the British flag from Formosan waters. It is true that the loss to Hongkong traders by the cession of Formosa, coupled with the rebellion in Kwangtung and Fokien that will assuredly follow the Japanese control of the Southern China Seas, will only amount to a few million dollars, but is the colony in a state to admit of any curtailment of her trade? The fate of British merchants coast-wise is apparently a minor detail, and I will not trouble you with it. What Hongkong should understand—if it is capable of understanding any trading question intelligently—is the manner in which its own trade is threatened, and that openly, by Japan. Moreover, what garrison does Hongkong propose to maintain to counteract the effect of 50,000 Japanese troops (the Formosa garrison) and an impregnable Japanese naval station permanently maintained within sixteen hours' steam of the colony,—I am, yours faithfully.

Tamsui, 8th April, 1895.

X.

HONGKONG.

The colony is in sore need of heavy rains. The reservoirs are in such a low condition that the supply has been restricted to three hours a day. Such a step is of course necessary, but it will naturally mean a serious danger to the health of Hongkong, particularly just now, when a recurrence of the plague is considered possible. Sporadic cases of plague have occurred at Macao, and in Hongkong the gruesome sight of dead boxes and ambulances being prepared for the reception of plague stricken patients and corpses can be met with on the foot-path in Wyndham Street. On Saturday His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, presented the Hongkong Regiment with its colours; the ceremony was very imposing. A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday and the Sanitary Board also met on the same afternoon. The prisoners charged with participation in the mutiny and attempted murder on the British barge *Lauberga* were committed for trial. On Friday, Saturday, and Monday the Hongkong Rifle Association held its Easter meeting at Kowloon, and the shooting was much superior to that of previous years. The meeting was a great success.

The gambling houses at Kowloon City and Samsui are reported to have resumed business.

The Rev. A. G. Goldsmith, seamen's chaplain, and Mrs. Goldsmith left for home on Thursday by the P. & O. steamer *Pekin* for a holiday.

Inspector Hennessy left for home on Thursday by the P. & O. steamer *Pekin* on six months' leave. Inspector Hanson has taken charge of the Water Police.

Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., left for Singapore by the P. & O. steamer *Pekin* on Thursday to take up his appointment as Puisne Judge in the Straits Settlements.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Queen's ex-quator has been issued empowering Mr. F. J. Haver Droeze to act as Consul-General for the Netherlands at Hongkong.

The Hon. A. M. Thomson, Acting Colonial Treasurer, has been appointed also Acting Superintendent of the Gaol during the absence of Mr. Lethbridge, and will combine the duties of the two offices.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Opium Farm has been let by private contract for the term of three years, from 1st March, 1895, to Lum Sin Sang and Ho Tai Sang, trading under the style or firm of Man Fook Company.

The large number of men-of-war in harbour at present has given the Chinese the impression that a Japanese attack upon Canton may shortly be expected. They say the men-of-war have assembled here to be in readiness to witness the bombardment. The report is of course a mere canard, but it has caused a good deal of uneasiness amongst the native community.

Soon after twelve o'clock on Thursday a fire broke out in a rattan shop at 144, Queen's Road West. Mr. H. E. Wodehouse and the Fire Brigade quickly attended and succeeded in confining the flames to the first and second storeys. The premises were insured.

The Gillies gold medal, presented to the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders by the President, Mr. D. Gillies, to be competed for by the members, has been awarded to Mr. W. G. Winterburn for his paper on screw propellers. Five members competed for the prize.

The German steamer *Lyemooon* reports having met the British steamer *Achilles* on Monday lying at anchor 9 miles N. & W. off Pedro Blanco, with her shaft broken. Offers of assistance were refused, and after temporary repairs the injured vessel will be able to put back to Hongkong.

The Rifle Brigade turned out on Wednesday morning on the Parade Ground in full strength, eight companies and the Band, for inspection. They were in heavy marching order and in winter uniform. They looked uncommonly smart and went through their evolutions with admirable precision.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Her Majesty has not been advised to exercise her power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 14 of 1894 entitled an Ordinance to secure in certain cases the rights of property in telegraphic messages and to prevent the forgery and improper disclosure of telegrams.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 10th April.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—Latest London advices report the market "firm" and make no alterations in quotations. Raw Silk.—The position of the market remains the same as indicated in our last week's report, and with the exception of a few bales of Yellow Silk we hear of no business. Tussles.—Taysams.—No transactions reported. Yellow Silk.—The only business we hear of is a sale of 20 bales best Miensyang at Tls. 245. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 4th to the 9th current, are 405 bales of White, 13 bales of Yellow, and 13 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—Wild Silks.—No business. Waste Silk.—Has been neglected; high exchange rendering business impossible. Pongees.—No market.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 16th April.—The market remains as last reported. Quotations for Formosa are \$58.00 to \$59.00. During the past week sales have been 100 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor nil.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 16th April.—The market still continues weak. Following are the quotations:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.31 to 7.33 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 6.82 to 6.85 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.75 to 4.78 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.55 to 4.57 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.22 to 7.25 "
do. " 2, White... 6.70 to 6.72 "
do. " 1, Brown... 4.45 to 4.47 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.28 to 4.30 "
Foochow Sugar Candy... 10.62 to 10.65 "
Shekloong " " " 9.20 to 9.25 "

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 16th April.—Bengal.—There has been some activity in the market towards the close owing to a demand from Shanghai for new drug, which has improved to \$722½ for Patna and \$710 for Benares. Old Patna and Old Benares are quoted at \$725 and \$700 respectively.

Malwa.—There has been very little change during the past week, and transactions have been on a small scale. The following are the current figures:—

New \$690 with allow'ce of ¼ to 1½ cts.
Old (2 to 4 yrs.) \$720 " ¼ to 1½ "
" (5 to 7 yrs.) \$740 " 1 to 2 "

Persian.—Sales have been very meagre. Quotations continue at \$710 to \$750 for Oily and at \$750 to \$800 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's quotations are as under:—

Old Patna 700 chests.
New Patna 1,380 "
Old Benares 690 "
New Benares 360 "
Malwa 700 "
Persian 1,050 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 11	720	705	705	685	690	720/740
April 12	722½	705	707½	685	690	720/740
April 13	720	705	707½	685	690	720/740
April 14	720	705	707½	685	690	720/740
April 15	720½	713½	707½	680	690	720/740
April 16	722½	725	710	700	690	720/740

RICE.

HONGKONG, 16th April.—A large demand has been experienced from Canton, the natives laying in stores in anticipation of a blockade by the Japanese. Closing quotations are:—

per picul
Saigon, Ordinary \$2.16 to 2.18
" Round, good quality 2.35 to 2.37
" Long 2.42 to 2.45
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.22 to 2.25
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 2.52 to 2.55
Siam White 3.02 to 3.05
" Fine Cargo 3.25 to 3.28

COALS.

HONGKONG, 16th April.—Small business reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff \$11.00 to 12.00 ex ship, buyers.
Australian ... 8.00 to " ex ship, nominal.
Mikie Lump... 6.75 to 7.25 ex ship, nominal.
Mikie Small... 5.75 to 6.25 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump ... 5.50 to 6.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—55 bales No. 8 at \$63, 645 bales No. 10 at \$65.50 to \$72, 440 bales No. 12 at \$68 to \$72, 145 bales No. 16 at \$73 to \$79, 820 bales No. 20 at \$66 to \$85. *Grey Shirtings*.—1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$3.55, 1,000 pieces Blue 5 Men at \$3.55, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 5 Men at \$2.50. *White Shirtings*.—500 pieces R. 2 at \$3.90, 300 pieces E.F. at \$6.25. *Victoria Lawns*.—2,400 pieces Brown Stag at \$0.61. *T.Cloths*.—750 pieces Mex. 4 Stags at \$2.05. *Fancy Goods*.—200 pieces Figured Embossed Sateen at \$0.03½. *Camlets*.—30 pieces 9 Old Men Scarlet at \$17.30.

METALS.—*Iron*.—350 kegs Wire Nails at \$4.40. *Lead*.—1,680 piculs at \$6.05.

SHANGHAI, 11th April.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report).—Nothing definite has transpired as yet with regard to the peace negotiations and, consequently, every thing remains much as described last week. At the close, however, the natives appear to have some grounds for believing an agreement has actually been arrived at, or is very near it, and this receives some confirmation by the manner in which they have started in to clear goods for the Tientsin steamers that are leaving here to-day and to-morrow, comprising a large proportion of American makes, which have, however, mostly changed hands amongst themselves. From the prices rumoured as paid it looks very much as though the northern dealers are having it entirely their own way, the native holders here having lost all heart and are willing to accept almost any prices in order to effect prompt sales. The constant fluctuations in exchange, too, that still continue are most perplexing and make every transaction more or less a gamble. As a rule the effect of the rise in exchange is counteracted by the higher prices in Manchester, but at the same time small parcels are continually being offered from thence at rates out of all proportion to the ordinary market quotations, which has naturally a most demoralising influence on this side, the goods being hawked around as importers have not sufficient confidence to settle them on their own account. Alas, how the old order of things has changed! In the good days of "pucka merchant pidgin" what a grand opportunity there would have been for a straight deal now! The natives, however, are kept so thoroughly posted as to every movement in the home markets, or exchange, that it is quite impossible to do any thing but a simple commission business. For the River ports and Ningpo a fair enquiry still pertains, and deliveries are as satisfactory as can be expected under the circumstances, but unfortunately the dealers have very little need to call on importers for supplies, having quite sufficient in hand to meet all requirements. The first shipments direct to Vladivostok for the season must be considered distinctly satisfactory, especially as far as English goods are concerned. The Manchester market is strong and advancing in sympathy with cotton, which has taken another upward movement, being now 3½d. Quotations

are generally higher, especially the heavier Grey Shirtings, while Yarns have advanced six or seven per cent.

TUESDAY, 16th April. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	2 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2 2/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2 2/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 2/4
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.71
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.77
ON GERMANY.—	
On Demand	2.19
ON NEW YORK.—	
Banks Bills, on demand	52 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	54
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	192 1/2
Bank, on demand	192 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	192 1/2
Bank, on demand	192 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Banks, at sight	7 1/4
Private, 30 days' sight	7 1/4
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	7 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1/2 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.10
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	48.25

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 16th April.—The comparative activity of the market reported in our recent issues, which showed some signs of waning at the date of our last, was brought to a sudden conclusion by the Easter holidays, and we have little or no business to report. Rates, however, with few exceptions, have been maintained and notwithstanding the absence of business the market rules steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled very quiet and we have no business of any importance to report. Shares were enquired for at 175 to 177 per cent. prem., but only a few changed hands at the former rate. At time of writing shares could in all probability be placed at \$180, but with the uncertainty of the issue of the pending peace negotiations, neither buyers nor sellers appear to care to make a move and 180 per cent. prem. must be considered as a more or less nominal rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—All Marines have ruled weaker, and without sales are offering at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have continued in demand and buyers vainly offer \$185. Chinas continue in request at \$80 without finding sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have fluctuated between \$30 and \$32 1/2 in sympathy with the progress of the "pool negotiations," which we believe are now definitely settled; at time of closing sales are reported at \$32 1/2. Indo-Chinas, in consequence of the seizure of the s.s. *Yiksang*, have ruled rather weaker, and no buyers have been forthcoming to take the few shares that are on offer at \$46 1/2. Other shipping stocks are neglected at quotations.

REFINERIES.—Both Chinas and Luzons continue quite neglected at quotations.

MINING.—Punjoms have changed hands at \$6.25, \$6.10, and \$6 during the week under review, closing with buyers at latter rate. Balmorals have further declined to \$6 with sales. Raubs are reported to have been placed at \$4.25, \$4.50, and \$4.75, sellers ruling the market at the latter rate. Other Mining stock has been neglected.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks have ruled weaker and after sales at 98 and 97 are on offer at 95 per cent. premium. Lands continue in good odour and sales are reported at \$57 1/2 and \$58, Watsons have been dealt in in fair quantities at \$9.75, \$10, and \$10.25, closing steady at latter rate. Bell's Asbestos have improved to \$10 1/2, after sales at \$9.25, \$9.50, and \$10. Dairy Farms have found further buyers at \$6.25 and a parcel of Campbell and Moore has changed hands at \$25.50.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		[& sellers]
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	180 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, &c...	\$225.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	\$1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	\$8	\$23, buyers
Foun. Shares.....	\$1	n m.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	\$1	nom.
Brown & Co., H. G...	\$50	\$10 1/2, sales
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	\$4 1/2, sellers
China Borneo	\$55	\$2 1/2, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	nom.
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	\$126, sellers
Dakin, Cruicks'k & Co.	\$5	11 p. ct. pm.
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$1
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$6.25, sale: & buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$15, sellers
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	\$8 1/2, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$5	\$5, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$36
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$125, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$4.75, sellers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$6 1/2, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$76
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$38, sellers
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	\$121
Hotels—		95 p. ct. pm., sellers
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	\$9
Shameen	\$20	\$4
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$160, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$80, buyers
China Traders' ...	\$25	\$66, sales
Hongkong Fire ...	\$50	\$18 1/2, buyers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 215, sellers
Straits Marine.....	\$20	\$19 1/2, sales
Union	\$5	\$157 1/2, sellers
Yangtze	\$30	\$100, sellers
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$58
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$10, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9 1/2
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$18
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45, sellers
Mining—		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$6, sales & buyers
Charbonnages.....	\$131.58	\$75, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$4, sell. rs
Punjom	\$3 1/2	\$6, sales & buyer
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.75
Raubs	13s. 10d	\$4.75, sales & sellers
Steamship Coys.		
China & Manila ...	\$50	\$59, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co...	\$50	\$49, sellers
H. Canton, & M...	\$20	\$3 1/2, sales
Indo-China S. N...	\$20	\$47, sellers
W'chai Warehouse Co.	\$17 1/2	\$37 1/2
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$10 1/2, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 11th April:—(From Messrs. P. J. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—On the 6th shares were placed at 180 per cent. premium. A forced sale on the 8th caused a drop to 170 per cent., and yesterday the price recovered to 173 per cent., at which shares are offering. The London price is reported to be £39. National Bank of China.—Shares have been placed from Hongkong at \$22. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas have been in demand, and have changed hands at Tls. 33, Tls. 34, and Tls. 35. Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co.—A rumour that the pool on the Pearl River had fallen through caused a weakness in this stock. Shares were sold at \$31. Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 125 ex div. Marine Insurance.—A sale of Yangtzes is reported at \$95 ex div., Straits have been placed from Hongkong at \$20. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been sold at \$177 1/2, and Chinas at \$79 1/2 and \$80. Miscellaneous.—Business has been done in Shanghai Gas Co. shares at Tls. 21 1/2, Hall & Holtz shares at \$20 ex div., Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 410, Shanghai-Lankat Tobacco shares at Tls. 110 cash and Tls. 125 for 30th September, Shanghai Horse Bazaar Tls. 42 1/2 and Tls. 47 1/2. Loans.—Shanghai Land 6 per cent. Debentures have been placed at par, and 5 1/2 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 93, plus the accrued interest in both cases. A sale of the 5 1/2 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 93 net is also reported.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 12th April.—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—Business remains quiet for home-ward markets, and there is no advance to note in the amount of cargo shipped during the past fortnight, but a healthier feeling seems to exist, and should peace be arranged at an early date between China and Japan, the present dull state of affairs will surely mend, though it may be some time before business recovers from the effects of the present war. For sail tonnage to New York there has been a fairly

strong enquiry, but for London and New York by steam things are as dull as they possibly can be. Coastwise.—From Chinkiang to Whampoa there is a very strong demand for tonnage, and several settlements have been made at various prices up to 21 candareens, the market closing firm for outsiders at 20 candareens. Cargo is plentiful for Southern coast ports, but tonnage is very scarce. From Japan to this rates are firm at quotations. From Newchwang there are, in the event of a cessation of hostilities, very good prospects, stocks of produce being large owing to cargo boats having been of late in Government use, and when this means of transport from the interior is restored to the natives, we should experience a lively enquiry in this direction.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—	ARRIVALS.
13, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.	
13, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.	
13, Undaunted, British cruiser, from Chefoo.	
13, Achilles, British str., from New York.	
13, Rosary, British str., from Chingiang.	
13, Eleanor, Amr. yacht, from Manila.	
13, Severn, British cruiser, from Takow.	
13, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.	
13, Irene, German cr., from Amoy.	
14, Borgo, Russian torpedo-boat, from Saigon.	
14, Reval, Russian torpedo-boat, from Saigon.	
14, Otway, Russian g-b., from Saigon.	
14, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Whampoa.	
14, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.	
14, Cassius, German str., from Saigon.	
14, Canton, British str., from Canton.	
14, Leeyuen, British str., from Canton.	
14, Diomed, British str., from Keroksaon.	
15, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Tamarind, Norw. str., from Whampoa.	
15, Chiyuen, British str., from Canton.	
15, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.	
15, Manche, French str., from Saigon.	
15, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Swatow, German str., from Pakhoi.	
15, Crane, British str., from Chinkiang.	
15, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.	
15, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.	
16, Nanking, Norw. str., from Laspalmas.	
16, Caledonien, French str., from Shanghai.	
16, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.	
16, Martha, German str., from Tamsui.	
16, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.	
16, Melpomene, Austrian str., from Trieste.	
16, M. Jebson, German str., from Haiphong.	
16, Namyang, British str., from Singapore.	
16, Fannie Skolfeld, British bk., from S'pore.	
16, Hunan, British str., from Barry.	
16, Taicheong, German str., from Aroe Bay.	
April—	DEPARTURES.
13, Pekin, British str., for Amoy.	
13, Couch, British str., for Iloilo.	
13, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.	
13, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.	
13, Thales, British str., for Swatow.	
13, Zafro, British str., for Amoy.	
13, Manila, British str., for Singapore.	
13, Exe, British str., for Saigon.	
14, Rosary, British str., for Whampoa.	
14, Rio, German str., for Saigon.	
14, Chowfa, British str., for Swatow.	
14, Achilles, British str., for Shanghai.	
14, Hector, British str., for Shanghai.	
14, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.	
14, Straits of Dover, British str., for Kobe.	
14, Loosok, British str., for Hoihow.	
14, Deuterios, German str., for Bangkok.	
14, Ethiopie, British str., for Saigon.	
14, Hlangchow, British str., for Amoy.	
14, Arthur Head, British str., for Bangkok.	
15, Beatrice, British str., for Saigon.	
15, Gloucester City, British str., for Saigon.	
15, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Nagasaki.	
15, Normandie, Norw. str., for Bangkok.	
15, Omba, British str., for Saigon.	
15, Peacock, British g-b., for Kobe.	
15, Archer, British cruiser, for Amoy.	
16, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.	
16, Fushun, British str., for Canton.	
16, Choysang, British str., for Canton.	
16, Leeyuen, British str., for Shanghai.	
16, Crane, British str., for Canton.	
16, Eleanor, Amr. steamyacht, for Canton.	
16, Frigga, German str., from Yokohama.	
16, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.	
16, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.	
16, Martha, German str., for Whampoa.	
16, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.	
16, Taiyuan, British str., for Yokohama.	